



68 PAGES
NO ADS FROM COVER TO COVER!

DC

BIG 500th ISSUE!

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NO. 500

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SUPERMAN STARRING IN

ACTION COMICS

ALL YOUR FAVORITE SUPERHEROES IN A SECONDARY MENACE!

SUPERMAN-- THIS IS YOUR LIFE STORY!

WELCOME SUPERGI

PERMAN!

ANDRU & GIORDANO

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THE ACTION COMICS STORY

The magazine you hold in your hand is something very special. It is the first comic book ever to reach its 500th issue! And the reason it has lasted so long can be summed up in one word: *Superman!*

Over 41 years ago, the company now known as DC Comics was publishing three magazines: *MORE FUN COMICS*, *ADVENTURE COMICS*, and *DETECTIVE COMICS* (this last was to give DC its name). The success of *DETECTIVE* convinced the publishers another specialized comic would work—this one based on action features, as the first presented detective stories.

At the time, they had no lead feature for the book. However, they asked M.C. Gaines, then with the McClure Syndicate, if there were any good features he couldn't use which might fit in the new title. Gaines had *Superman* on his desk, and liked it. Encouraged by Sheldon Mayer, he sent it to DC, where its creators, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, had been working for years. The strip, originally written and drawn for newspaper syndication, was pasted up for use in the comic, with a one-page origin tacked on at the beginning. The initial storyline continued into the second issue. (Both parts were to be reprinted a year later, in *SUPERMAN* #1, with a new two-page origin and some extra pages to fill in what Siegel hadn't told in the first version, such as how Clark Kent got his newspaper job.)

The story of *Superman's* creation has been told often (though the details are often confused). We'll hold off on that till later, then. What hardly anyone mentions is the other features in *ACTION* #1 (June, 1938).

Homer Fleming's western strip, "*Chuck Dawson*," was the second feature in that historic issue, and was destined to run through #22. One thing that would seem strange to modern readers is that this strip was published in black-and-white. At the time, all-color comics were still to come. But the inside front cover announced a coloring contest, offering 25 prizes of \$1.00 each for the best coloring job on the first page of *Chuck Dawson*. This was on the opposite side of the last page of *Superman*. Who knows how many copies of that issue—which now brings thousands of dollars from collectors—were permanently mutilated to try for a dollar prize? Yet who could have predicted the future boom in vintage comics at that time?

One of the 25 winners was a teen-ager named Dick Ayers. If you read many comics today, you certainly know Dick as a top artist. In his early days in comics, he was one of the artists on the comic-book version of Siegel and Shuster's strip *Funnyman!*

One of the most durable strips in *ACTION* #1 was in the third spot. This was *Zatara the Magician* by Fred Guardineer. He would continue in every issue through #132, then in

issues 136, 138, and 141. He looked a lot like the famous *Mandrake*, but in that first issue he was clean-shaven, though later he would sport a mustache. He was to return to comics from time to time, beginning in the '60's, when his daughter, *Zatanna*, now a *Justice League* member, was introduced.

Letter columns were virtually unknown in those days, but there were text pages. In #1, there was a two-page text of a short story, "South Sea Strategy," by Frank Thomas. The story was concluded in #2.

There was next a 4-page humor story—one of several one-shots which were to appear in the magazine. As none were ever regular features, we'll pass them up in our resume of *ACTION* heroes.

The Adventures of Marco Polo, by Sven Elven, was next. This fictionalized version of Polo's travels ran 17 issues.

Then we find another Guardineer strip, "*Pep Morgan*," a boxing story. The first page showed *Pep* winning the Light-Heavyweight Championship (unusual, since most comics boxers were heavyweights). Most interesting is the fact that he fought a black boxer—not an American Negro, but an Australian Bushman. Yet the character was drawn realistically, in a day when most blacks were portrayed as racial caricatures. *Pep* ran through #41.

Scoop Scanlon, *Five Star Reporter*, by Will Ely, shared the same printing plates as *Chuck Dawson*, so it was also in black-and-white. *Scoop* apparently couldn't match that other reporter, Clark Kent, so he only lasted 13 issues.

One of the most unusual and long-lived strips was Bernard Bailey's *Tex Thomson*. Here we had a Texan who had become an oil millionaire and was using his new wealth for world travel. In the first story, he was in England. Later he was to add two assistants, Bob Daily and a black called Gargantua. However, this distasteful racial caricature was soon dropped.

Then, in #33, *Tex* adopted a double identity, becoming *ACTION's* second "mystery man." Following the lead of MLJ's *Shield* and Quality's *Uncle Sam*, *Tex* became one of the early red-white-and-blue heroes, *Mr. America*. Later, Bob Daily took the identity of *Fatman*. In #52, the feature was called *The American Commandos* (referring to both heroes), but #53 returned *Tex* to a solo title as *American Commando*.

Curiously, *Superman* was not featured on many of the early covers. After #1, he relinquished the cover spot to general action scenes which often had nothing to do with any of the stories inside (though *Zatara* was on #12 and 14). He returned to the cover in #7, then #10, 13, 15, and 17. It finally sank in that *Superman* was the big seller of the mag, so from #19 on, he hasn't missed a cover.

Clip Carson came along in #14, lasting through #36, while *Three Aces* ran in issues 18-63.

(CONT'D INSIDE BACK COVER)

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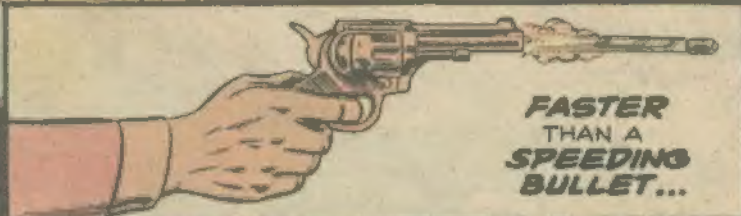
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PROLOGUE:



**FASTER
THAN A
SPEEDING
BULLET...**



**MORE POWERFUL THAN A
LOCOMOTIVE...**



**ABLE TO LEAP TALL
BUILDINGS AT A
SINGLE BOUND...**

**EVERYONE KNOWS
THE LEGEND!
EVERYONE KNOWS
THE SCENE:
THE CROWD THAT
LIFTS ITS COLLECTIVE
EYES TO THE SKY
AT THE DISTINCTIVE
WHINE OF RUSHING
WIND AND CALLS
OUT...**

**LOOK!
UP IN THE
SKY!--**

**IT'S A
BIRD!--**

**IT'S A
PLANE!--**

--IT'S
SUPERMAN!

The LIFE STORY of **SUPERMAN**

Created by
JOE SHUSTER

-- as chronicled by:
MARTIN PASKO • WRITER

CURT SWAN and FRANK CHIARAMONTE
• ARTISTS •

GASPAR SALADINO • ADRIENNE ROY
LETTERER COLORIST

JULIUS SCHWARTZ
• EDITOR •

BUT WHAT DO
WE REALLY
KNOW ABOUT
THE MAN
OF STEEL?

TO MANY, THE
MAN BEHIND
THE MYTH
REMAINS
SHROUDED
IN MYSTERY!

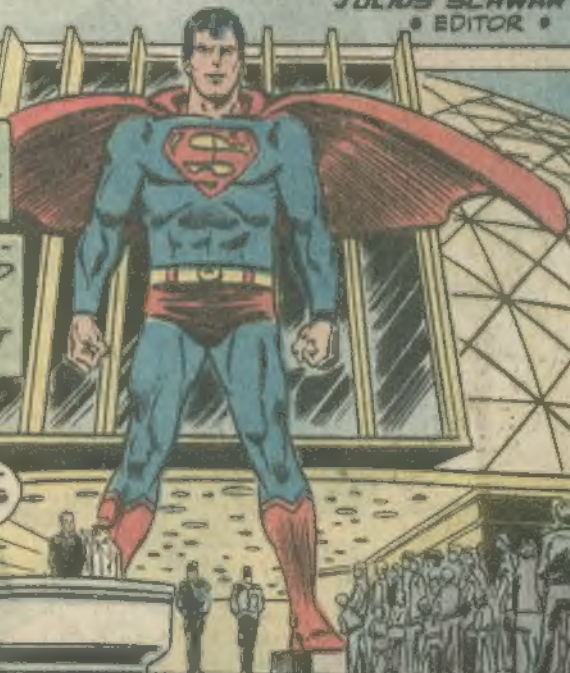
BUT NOW THE
MYSTIQUE CAN
BE STRIPPED
AWAY. NOW IT
CAN BE TOLD--
A SAGA LIKE
NO OTHER...

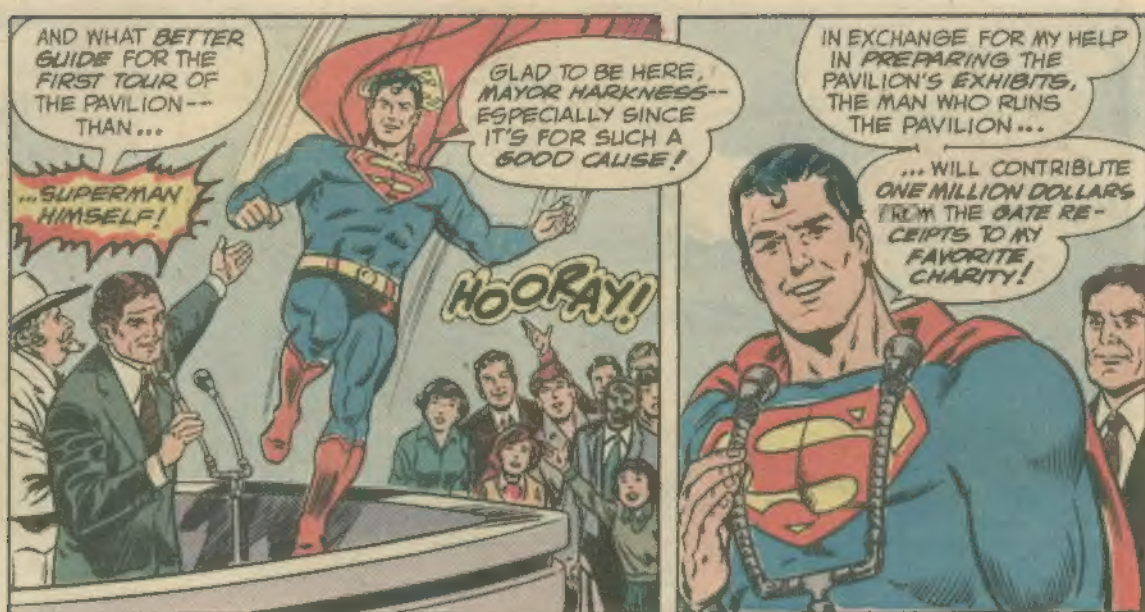
METROPOLIS! AT THE CITY
LIMITS, THE SIGNS TELL YOU
YOU'RE ENTERING THE HOME
OF SUPERMAN!

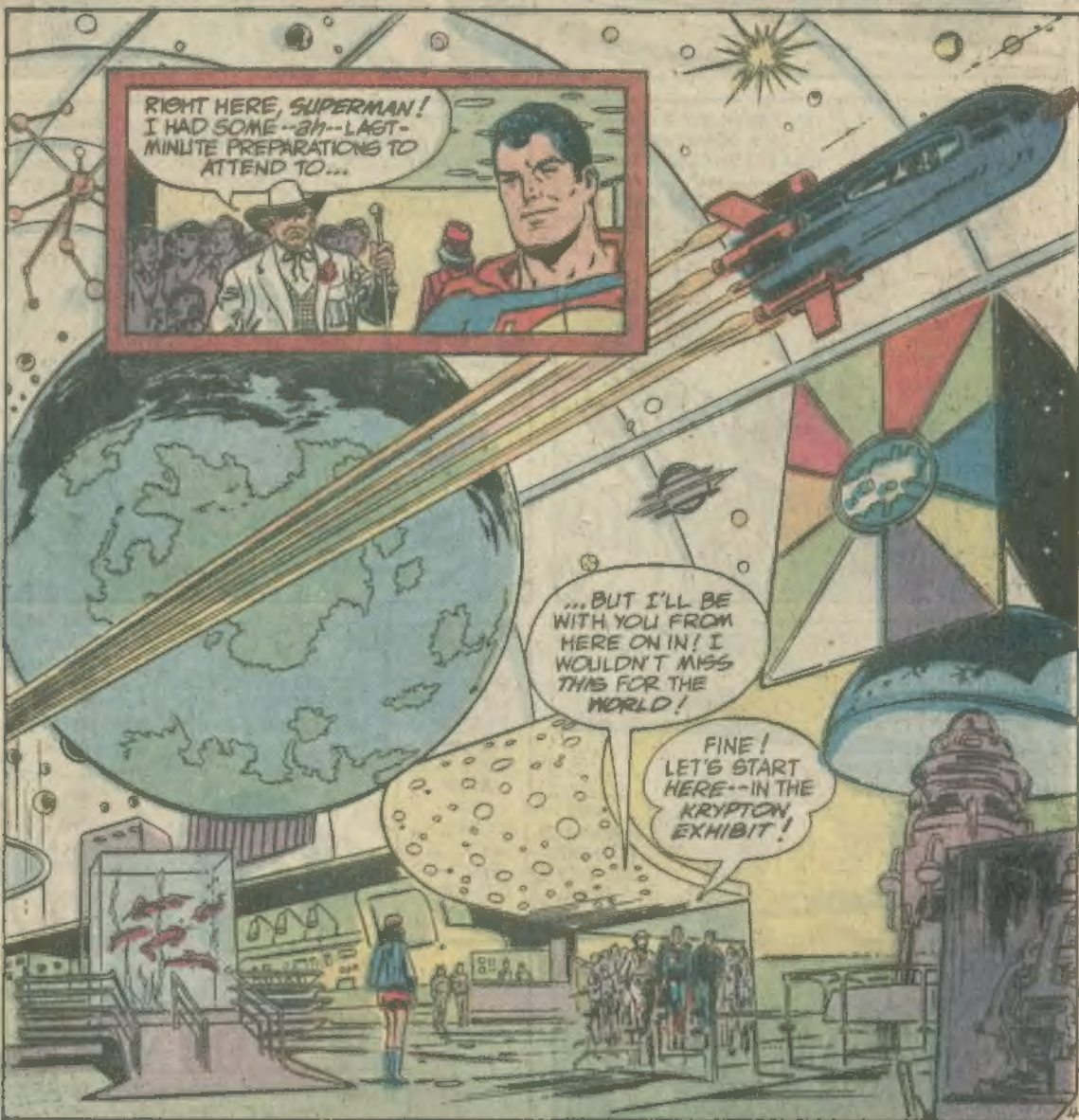
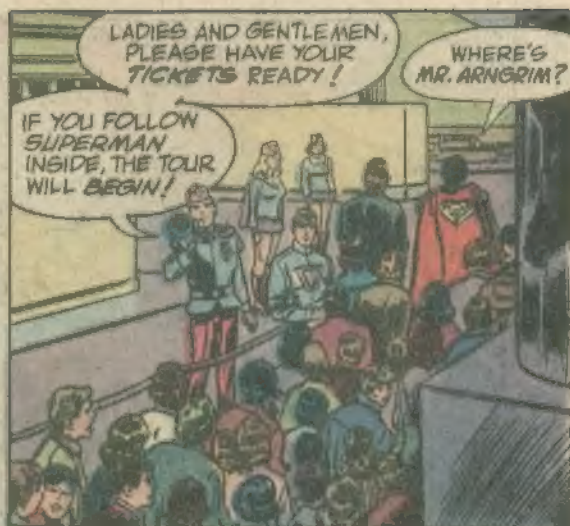
THEY'RE PROUD OF HIM HERE--
PROUD AND GRATEFUL...AND
WITH GOOD REASON! OF ALL
THE CITIES ON HIS ADOPTED
PLANET, THIS ONE IS CLOSEST
TO HIS HEART!

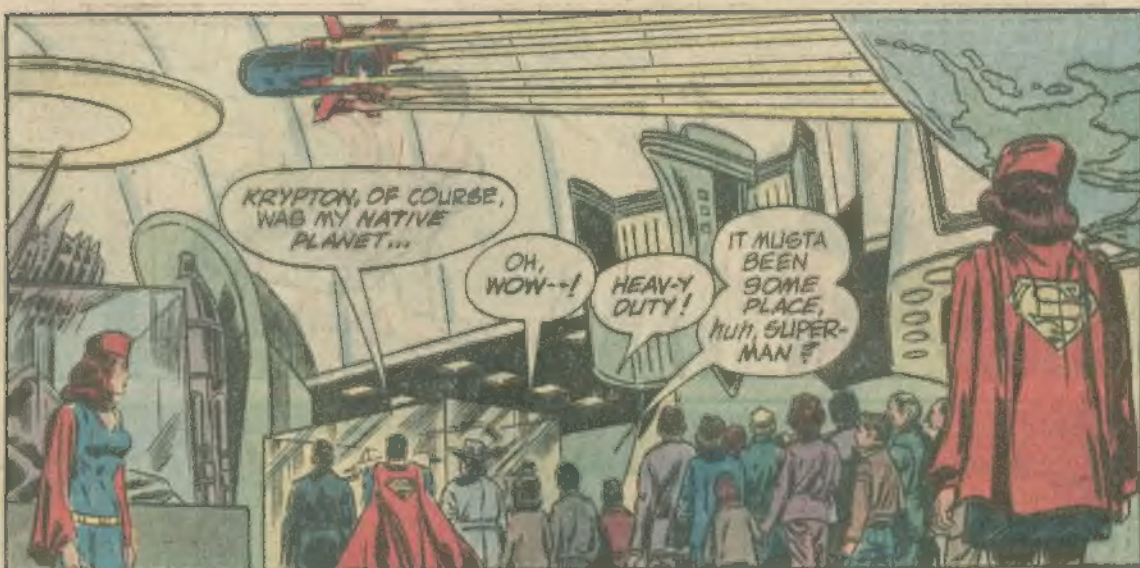
THAT LOVE IS ABOUT TO
BE REPAID IN KIND...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--
WELCOME TO THE OPENING
OF THE SUPERMAN
PAVILION OF THE
METROPOLIS
WORLD'S FAIR!









KRYPTON, OF COURSE,
WAS MY NATIVE
PLANET...

OH,
WOW--!

HEAVY
DUTY!

IT MUSTA
BEEN
SOME
PLACE,
HUM, SUPER-
MAN?



I MEAN, YOU WERE SENT
HERE IN A ROCKET--
WHEN KRYPTON BLEW
UP, RIGHT? BUT...

...I HEARD YOU GOT A
SUPER-MEMORY--Y'KNOW,
TOTAL RECALL!

SO WHAT WAS IT LIKE--
KRYPTON AND ALL?

TRUE, I DO HAVE
"TOTAL RECALL"--
BUT REPEATED
EXPOSURE TO
KRYPTONITE
OVER THE YEARS
HAS CAUSED
GAPS IN MY
MEMORY!

MY EARLY
LIFE ON
KRYPTON
IS ALMOST
A TOTAL
BLANK
TO ME!



BUT YOU DO
HAVE THIS--
YOUR
MIND-PROBER
RAY!

YES... AS A BOY, I
INVENTED IT TO
RETRIEVE LONG-
BURIED MEMORIES
FROM MY SUBCONSCIOUS!



SINCE YOU WERE GOOD ENOUGH
TO BRING THE MIND-PROBER FROM
YOUR FORTRESS--TO BE PLACED
ON EXHIBIT HERE...

WELL--
SH--I...

...PERHAPS
YOU COULD
DEMONSTRATE
IT FOR US?



IT WOULD BE SUCH A THRILL TO HEAR AN EYEWITNESS
ACCOUNT OF LIFE
ON KRYPTON!

YEAH, SUPERMAN--PLEASE?
JUST THIS ONCE?

OH... WELL...
ALL RIGHT...

AT THAT MOMENT--IN AN AS-YET-
UNKNOWN ELSEWHERE...

AH... FINALLY--
SUPERMAN HAS
TRIPPED A RELAY-
SWITCH BY SITTING
IN THE CHAIR...

...AND ARNERIM
HAS STRAPPED HIM
INTO THE MIND-
PROBER!

THIS MUST BE TIMED
PERFECTLY! I WON'T
GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO
TAP INTO SUPERMAN'S
MEMORY-BANK!

WHO IS THIS--AND WHAT
IS HE DOING? THOSE
QUESTIONS MUST, FOR THE
MOMENT, GO UNANSWERED...

...AS MEANWHILE--BENEATH
THE INTENSE PROBING OF THE
UNCANNY RAY...

I CAN SEE
IT--AS CLEARLY
AS IF I WERE
THERE...

...KRYPTON!

ONCE THE HOME OF THE MOST ADVANCED CULTURE IN THE GALAXY, IT REVOLVED AROUND A GIANT RED SUN IN A DISTANT STAR-SYSTEM!

chapter 1 PLANET ON THE EDGE OF OBLIVION!

VIVID IMAGES OF LIFE IN THIS HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED CIVILIZATION BLOOM INSIDE SUPERMAN'S HEAD--IMAGES MINED FROM SOME DEEP AND UNTAPPED LODE OF MEMORY...

I'M IN KRYPTONOPOLIS--
THE CITY OF MY BIRTH!
I CAN SEE MY FATHER'S
HOUSE...

WAH--
WAAAH!

SHH...LITTLE ONE--
SHH! FATHER WILL
BE HOME
SOON...

...UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
FOR IF HE DOES
RETURN EARLY,
IT WILL MEAN
HE CAN'T HAVE
BOTH...

...AND
I'M WITH MY
MOTHER--
LARA!
I CAN'T BE
MORE
THAN
TWO
YEARS
OLD...
AND I...
I'M UPSET
ABOUT
SOME-
THING! IN
FACT, WE
BOTH ARE...

"AS A CHILD, I COULDN'T COMPREHEND
WHAT SHE WAS SAYING--BUT NOW--
LOOKING BACK, IT'S ALL PERFECTLY
CLEAR..."

THIS TIME, IF THE
COUNCIL REFUSES TO
HEED HIM, THERE IS
LITTLE HOPE!

STILL--A MAN
LIKE JOR-EL
DOES NOT SUR-
RENDER TO
DESPAIR!
THOUGH I
FEAR HE IS
CONDEMNED TO
NAUGHT BUT
RIDICULE...

BARRUMBLE

...I KNOW HE
WILL NEVER
ABANDON
HOPE--

EEEEEE

WAAHH

"I REMEMBER THEM NOW--
THE GROUNDQUAKES..."

"...THE WAY THE GROUND WOULD TREMBLE
WITH A DEAFENING ROAR-- HOW THE
WINDOWS WOULD SHATTER SO... SO
SUDDENLY! IT WOULD TERRIFY ME LIKE
NOTHING ELSE I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED..."

MAMA!
SOB
MAMA!

HUSH, KAL-EL!
YOU ARE SAFE
NOW... IT IS
OVER!

BUT HOW MANY MORE
MUST THERE BE? HOW
MANY LIVES MUST BE
LOST BEFORE THE
COUNCIL WILL TAKE
MY HUSBAND SERIOUSLY?

MUST WE ALL
DIE FIRST?

PERHAPS,
GOOD WIFE...

JOR-EL!
HOW
FARED
YOU--?

BADLY,
I FEAR!
IT WAS
MY
LAST
ATTEMPT!

NOW WE
CAN LOOK
ONLY TO
OUR-
SELVES
FOR OUR
SALVATION!

I TRIED TO CONVINCE THE
COUNCIL-- RAO KNOWS I
TRIED! BUT THEY ACCEPT
NOTHING THAT DOES NOT COME
FROM THEIR INSTRUMENTS!

THEY WILL
NOT HEAR
THE LAND...
AS I DO!

"I RECALL
IT NOW:
HOW I DES-
PERATELY
STRUGGLED
TO UNDER-
STAND AS
MY FATHER--
SUCH A
GREAT MAN...
SO PROUD...
SO BIG IN
MY EYES--
TOLD OF
HOW HE
HAD BEEN
BE-
LITTLED..."



FOR THE FOURTH
TIME IN
AS MANY
KRYPTONIAN
MONTHS
HE HAD
GONE
BEFORE
THE
PLANET
SCIENCE
COUNCIL

AGAIN, EL?
AGAIN YOU
COME TO US
WITH YOUR
PROPHECY
OF DOOM?

PLEASE--YOU MUST READ
MY REPORT! THE
STATISTICS, THE FINDINGS
OF YEARS OF RESEARCH--

I TELL
YOU,
OUR
TIME
DRAWS
NIGH!

**KRYPTON
IS DOOMED!**

KRYPTON'S CORE IS UNSTABLE--
IT IS SOON TO REACH CRITICAL MASS...

...AND THE
RESULTANT
PRESSURES FROM
WITHIN THE INTERIOR
WILL TEAR OUR
WORLD ASUNDER!

AND WHAT DO YOU
PROPOSE TO DO
ABOUT THIS--?

YOU KNOW MY PROPOSAL--
YOU HAVE IGNORED IT
REPEATEDLY...

A FLEET OF
SPACE-SHIPS--
TO CARRY THE
POPULACE
TO
ANOTHER
PLANET--

--TO
ESCAPE
THE DE-
STRUCTION
OF
KRYPTON!

EL...EL! IT IS DEEPLY
DISTRESSING THAT YOU--
ONE OF KRYPTON'S MOST
DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS--
A MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL--

--SHOULD
COME TO US
THUS!

YOU WOULD
HAVE US
BELIEVE
THAT OUR
END IS AT
HAND.

... WHEN THE
GEOPHYSICAL
CLOCK PROJECTS
KRYPTON'S CONTINUED
SURVIVAL
FOR SO MANY
CENTURIES?

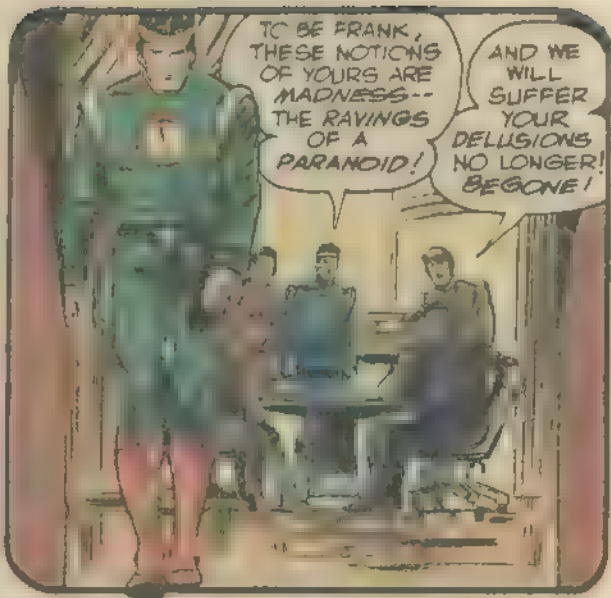
I SWEAR
TO YOU, THE
CLOCK CANNOT
BE TRUSTED!



YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS--THE DISCOVERY OF THE PHANTOM ZONE... PIONEERING OUR NON-ABANDONED SPACE PROGRAM ...

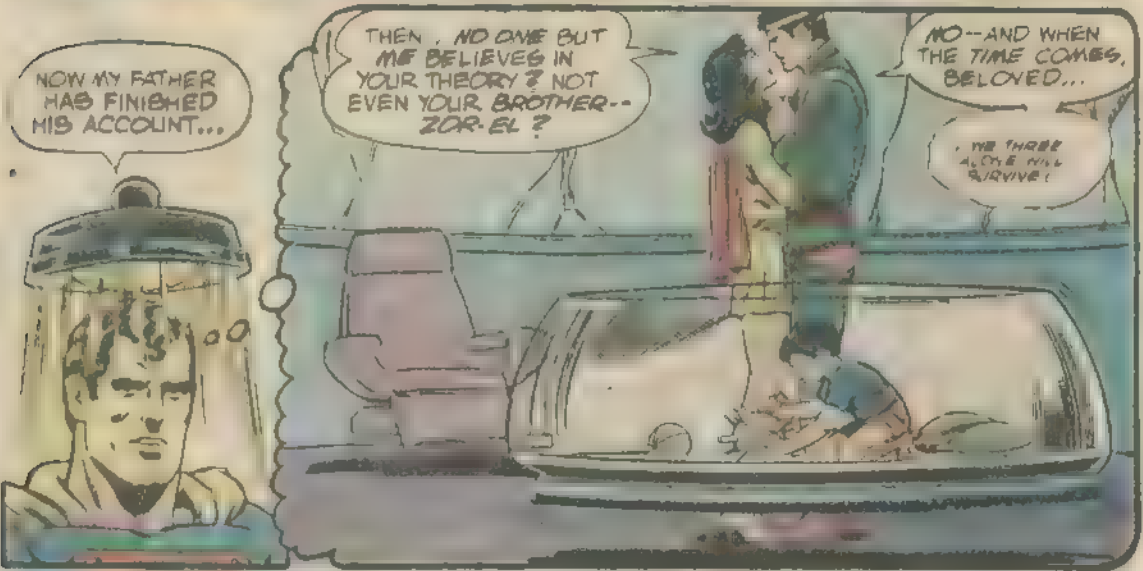
...THESE ARE ALL WELL-KNOWN TO US!

BUT WE CAN NOT DEFER TO EVEN YOUR RECORD IN THIS... THIS... PREPOSTEROUS FANTASY!



TO BE FRANK, THESE NOTIONS OF YOURS ARE MADNESS-- THE RAVINGS OF A PARANOID!

AND WE WILL SUFFER YOUR DELUSIONS NO LONGER! BEGONE!

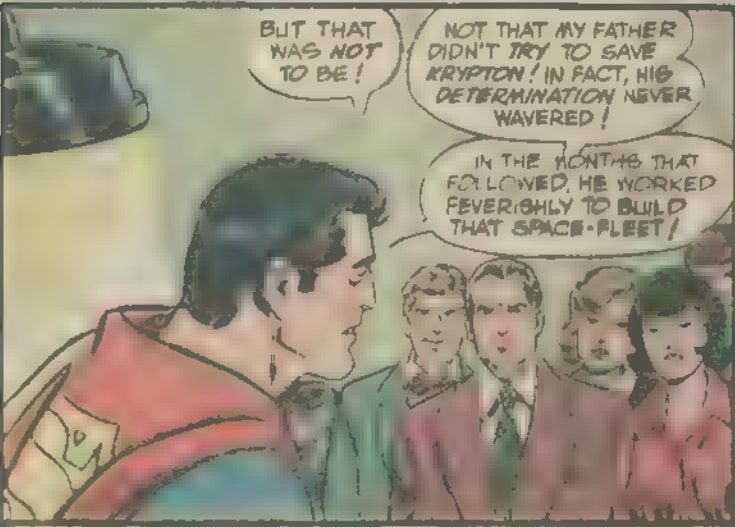


NOW MY FATHER HAS FINISHED HIS ACCOUNT...

THEN, NO ONE BUT ME BELIEVES IN YOUR THEORY? NOT EVEN YOUR BROTHER-- ZOR-EL?

NO--AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, BELOVED...

THE THREE OF US WILL SURVIVE!



BUT THAT WAS NOT TO BE!

NOT THAT MY FATHER DIDN'T TRY TO SAVE KRYPTON! IN FACT, HIS DETERMINATION NEVER WAVERED!

IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, HE WORKED FEVERISHLY TO BUILD THAT SPACE-FLEET!



I'M GOING BACK NOW--TO A DAY NOT LONG BEFORE THE END CAME...

TH--THEY'RE TAKING HIM AWAY FROM ME--NO... NO, MAMA. NO!

NO... TAKE...

...KRYPTO!
NO TAKE
KRYPTO!!!

DO NOT CRY,
MY SON...
YOUR PUPPY
WILL RETURN!

HE'S MERELY
GOING ON A
LITTLE TRIP...
TO TEST THIS
ROCKET FOR
PAPA!

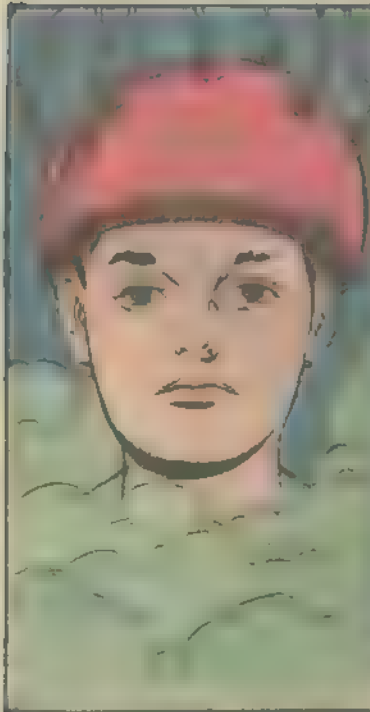
"BUT, HE
WON'T COME
BACK. I KNOW
IT! EVEN
THOUGH I'M
ONLY A CHILD,
SOMEHOW
I'M CERTAIN
THAT
KRYPTO
WILL NEVER
RETURN..."

BY THE TWIN MOONS-- I KRYPTO'S
ROCKET HAS BEEN STRUCK BY A
METEOR ...

...AND
KNOCKED OUT
OF ORBIT!

HOW
UNFORTUNATE
AN ACCIDENT--
FOR I CANNOT
BRING KRYPTO
BACK!

I... I AM
SORRY,
MY SON...



AND AS THE SCENE
IS RELIVED IN
SUPERMAN'S MIND--
AS HE EXPERIENCES
THE MOMENT EXACTLY
AS HE LIVED IT--
A BABY WHO LOOKS
EXACTLY
LIKE THE BABY
KAL-EL SEEMS TO
RELIVE THE
EXPERIENCE...

...IN THIS UNDER-
GROUND LABORATORY!

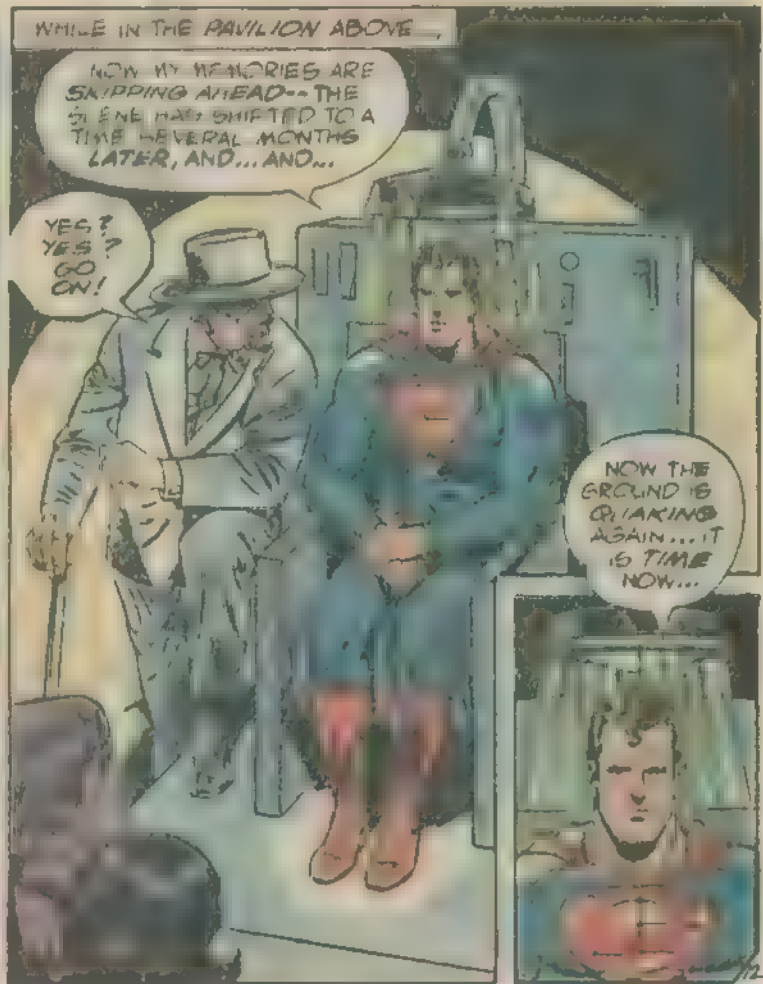
HERE THE SCENE
FROM SUPERMAN'S
PAST LIFE IS RE-
LIVED IN HIS MIND
FROM HIS LOST LIFE
IN THE UNDER
GROUND...

OR PERHAPS--IN A
DIFFERENT
WAY--HIS "SON"...



EXCELLENT--
IT'S WORKING!
ACCORDING TO MY
SCAN-MONITOR,
SUPERMAN IS RE-
LIVING HIS EARLY
DAYS ON
KRYPTON..

...AND THE
RECOLLECTIONS
ARE BEING
FED INTO
THE CHILD'S
MIND--
INTACT!



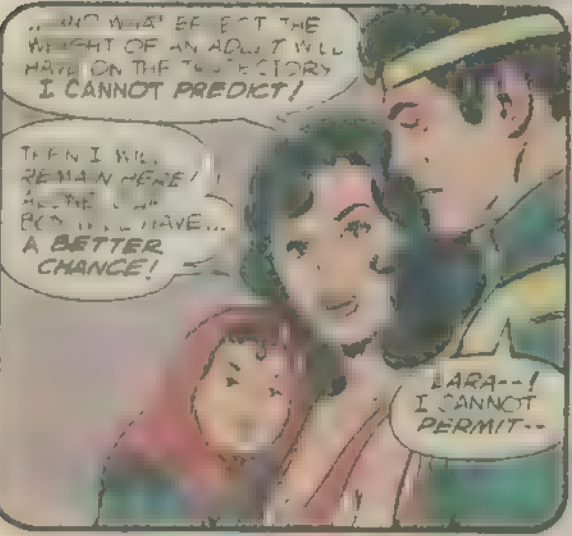
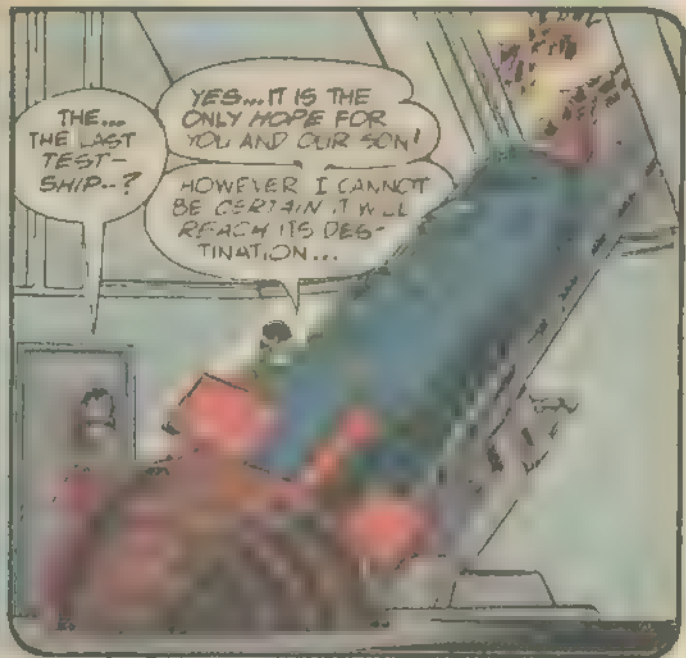
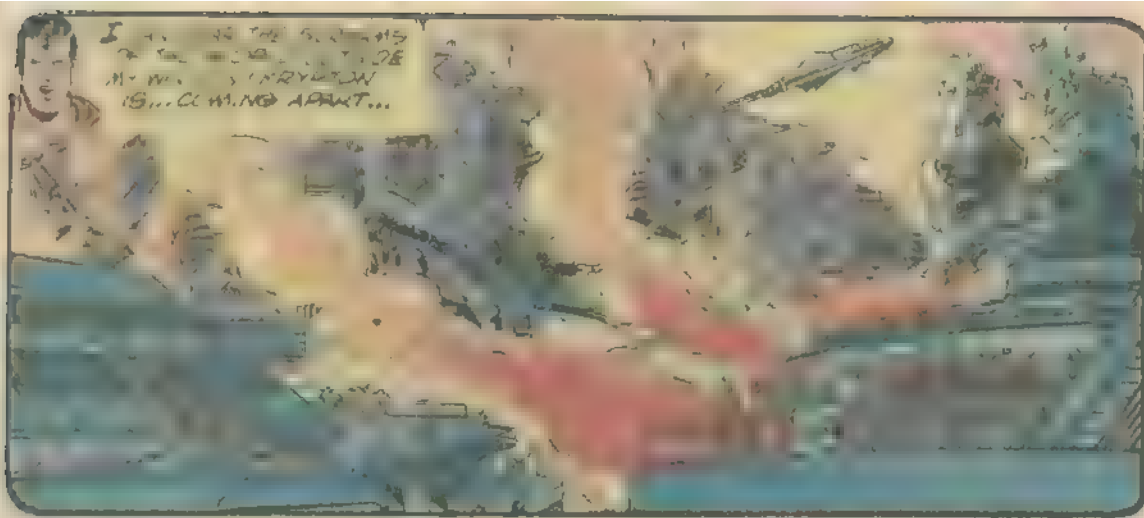
WHILE IN THE PAVILION ABOVE,

NOW MY MEMORIES ARE
SKIPPING AHEAD--THE
SCENE HAS SHIFTED TO A
TIME SEVERAL MONTHS
LATER, AND... AND...

YES?
YES?
GO
ON!

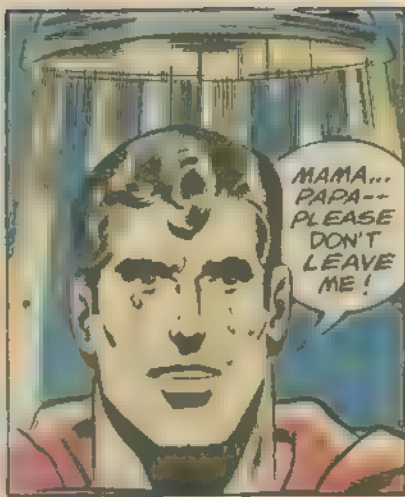
NOW THE
GROUND IS
QUAKING
AGAIN... IT
IS TIME
NOW...



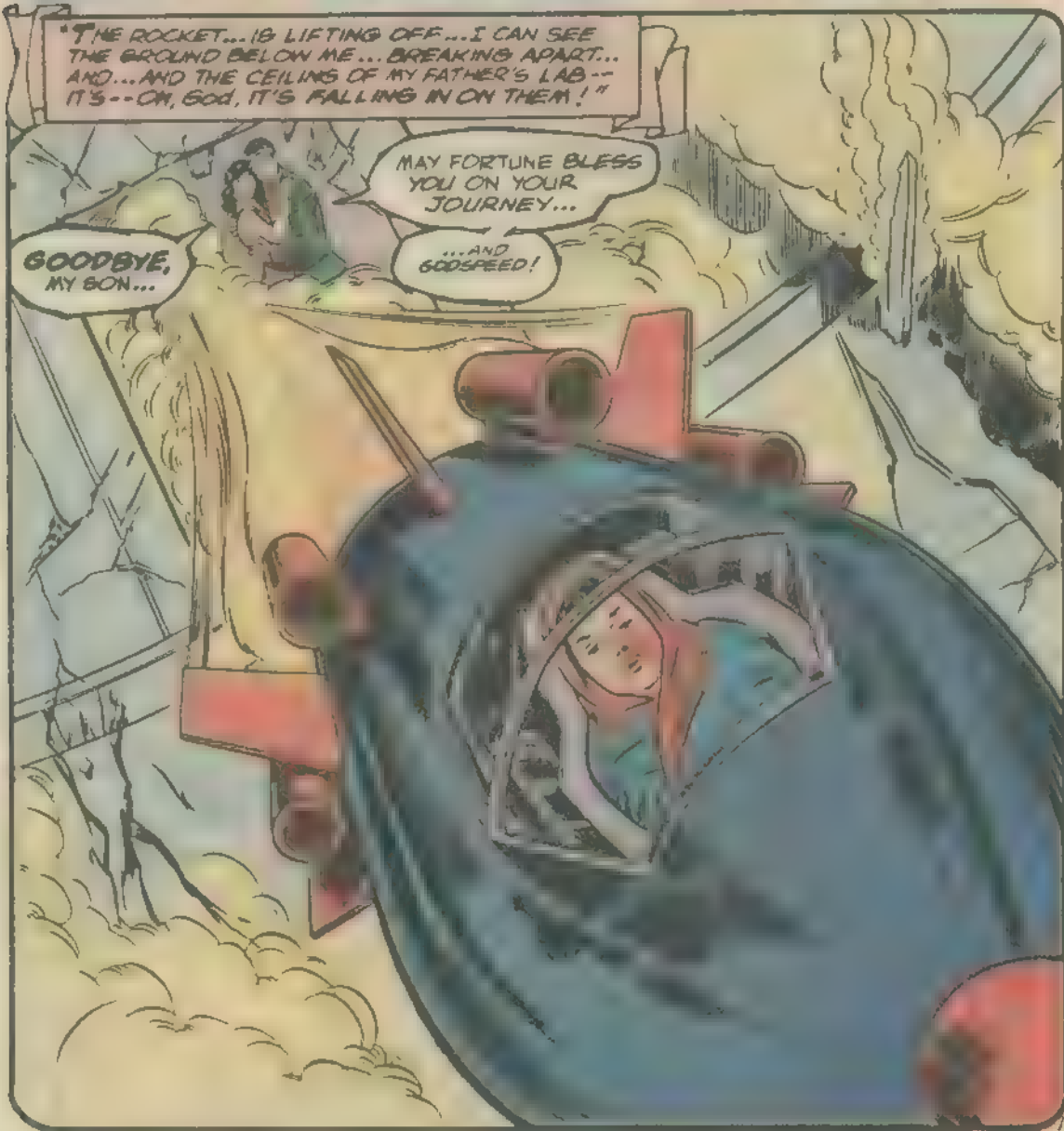




"THEY...THEY'RE
PUTTING ME INTO
THE ROCKET..."



MAMA...
PAPA--
PLEASE
DON'T
LEAVE
ME!



"THE ROCKET... IS LIFTING OFF... I CAN SEE
THE GROUND BELOW ME... BREAKING APART...
AND... AND THE CEILING OF MY FATHER'S LAB--
IT'S--OH, GOD, IT'S FALLING IN ON THEM!"

MAY FORTUNE BLESS
YOU ON YOUR
JOURNEY...

...AND
GOODSPEED!

GOODBYE,
MY SON...

"I... I'M LEAVING THEM THERE -- ALONE..."

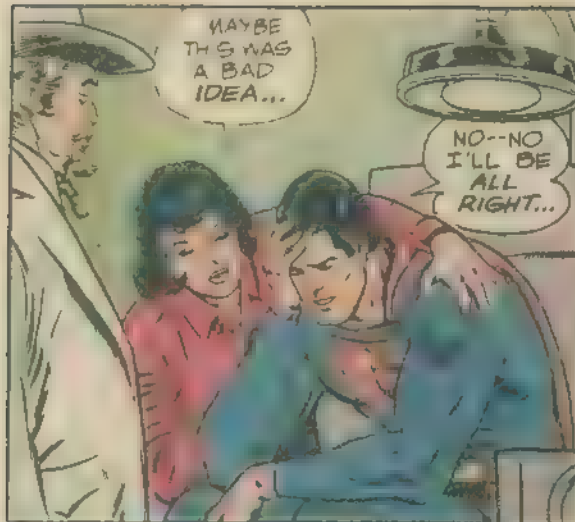


I... I CAN'T SEE THEM ANYMORE... AND... AND... I'LL NEVER SEE THEM... AGAIN--!



THEY RE-- THEY RE.. D...D...



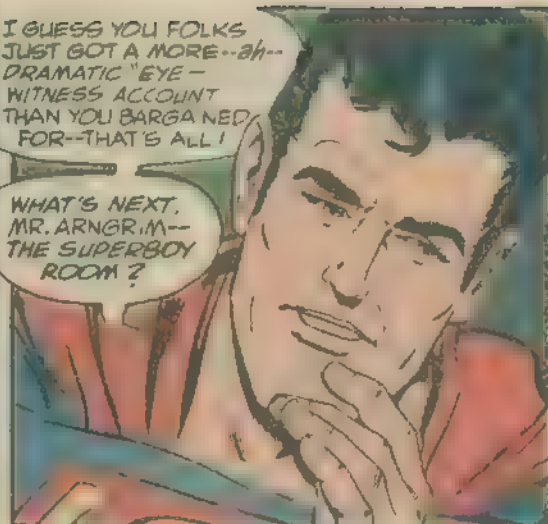


MAYBE
TH'S WAS
A BAD
IDEA...

NO--NO
I'LL BE
ALL
RIGHT...

I GUESS YOU FOLKS
JUST GOT A MORE--ah--
DRAMATIC "EYE--
WITNESS ACCOUNT
THAN YOU BARGAINED
FOR--THAT'S ALL!

WHAT'S NEXT,
MR. ARNGRIM--
THE SUPERBOY
ROOM?



THAT'S RIGHT
SUPERMAN!

YOU'LL NOTICE,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
THAT THE SUPERBOY
ROOM IS SMALLER...

...WITH
FEWER
EXHIBITS.

SORRY--BUT IT
HAD TO BE THAT
WAY!

MORE--ah-- DETAILED
INFORMATION ABOUT MY
FORMATIVE YEARS
MIGHT GIVE AWAY MY
SECRET IDENTITY!
BUT I CAN TELL YOU
THIS...



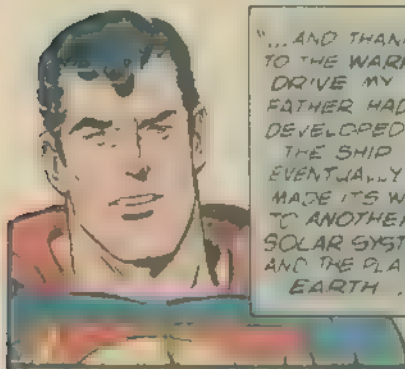
CHAPTER 2

A LEGEND IS BORN!

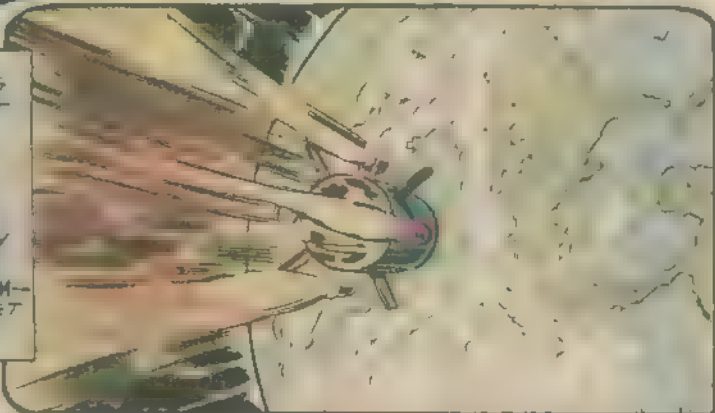


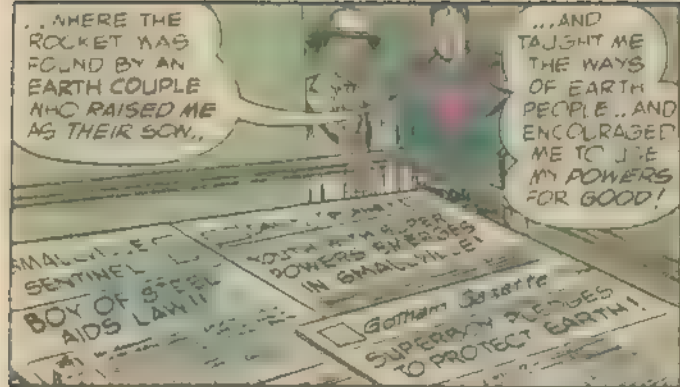
JOR-EL'S LAST
EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET
WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL
THAN THE ONE CONTAIN-
ING KRYPTO!

IT CLEARED KRYPTON'S
ATMOSPHERE AS THE
PLANET SHUDDERED
AND DIED BENEATH IT...



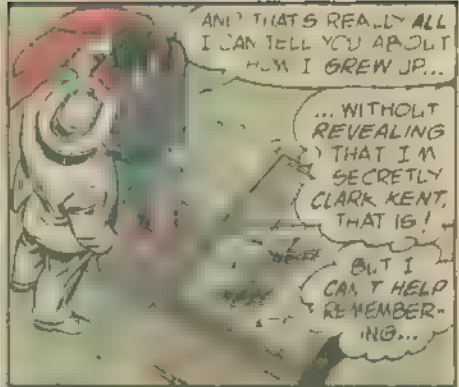
"...AND THANKS
TO THE WARP-
DRIVE MY
FATHER HAD
DEVELOPED,
THE SHIP
EVENTUALLY
MADE ITS WAY
TO ANOTHER
SOLAR SYSTEM
AND THE PLANET
EARTH."





...WHERE THE ROCKET WAS FOUND BY AN EARTH COUPLE WHO RAISED ME AS THEIR SON...

...AND TAUGHT ME THE WAYS OF EARTH PEOPLE...AND ENCOURAGED ME TO USE MY POWERS FOR GOOD!



AND THAT'S REALLY ALL I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT HOW I GREW UP...

...WITHOUT REVEALING THAT I'M SECRETLY CLARK KENT, THAT IS!

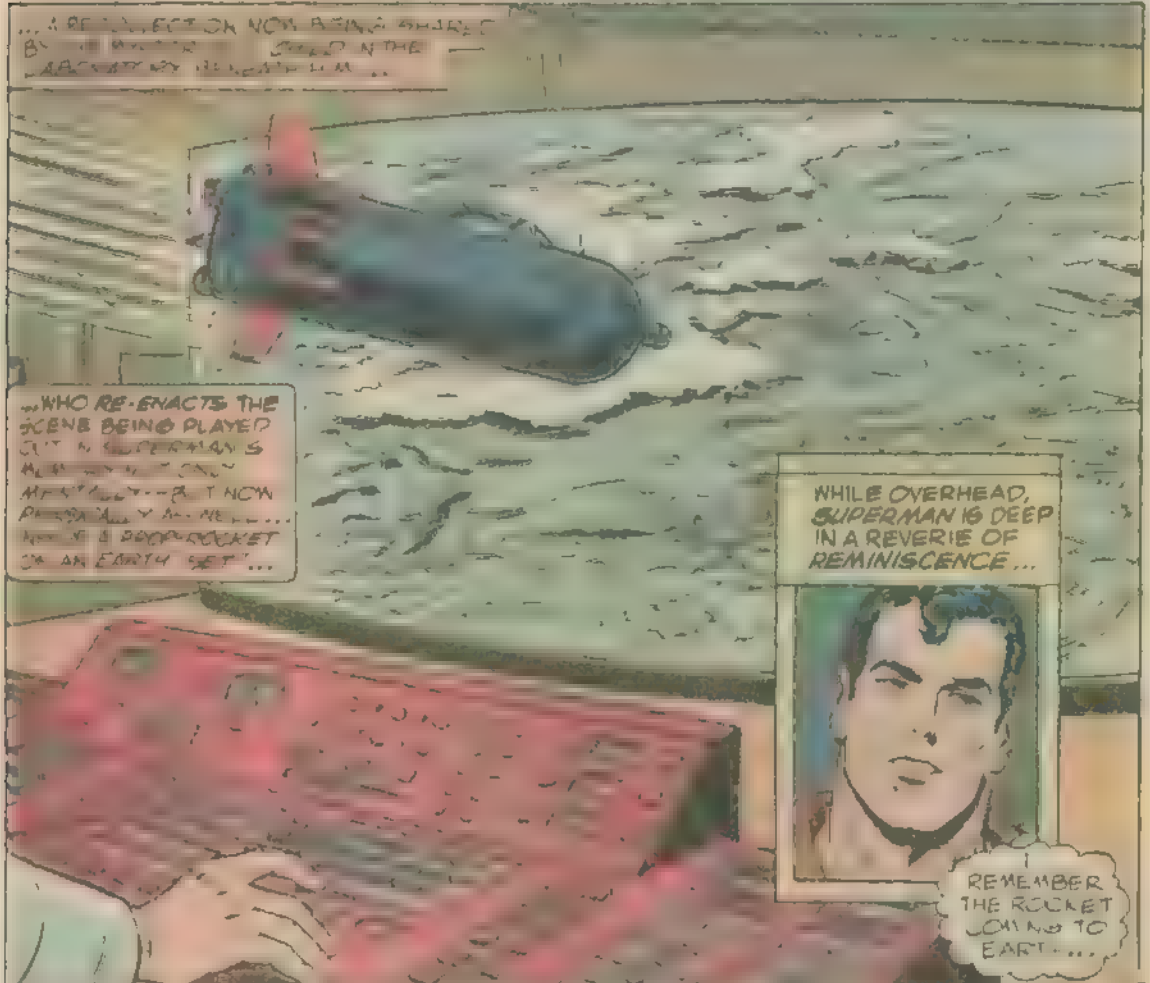
BUT I CAN'T HELP REMEMBERING...



...ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S...
...HON...
...THE...
...SOME UN-...
...THE MEMORIES...

...HE...
...HE...
...WITH A...
...GROWING...
...AND...

...A RECOLLECTION OF HIS FIRST CONTACT WITH EARTH...



...A RECOLLECTION OF NOW BEING...
...THE...
...THE...

...WHO RE-ENACTS THE SCENE BEING PLAYED...
...CLARK KENT...
...NOW...
...THE...
...ON AN EARTH SET...

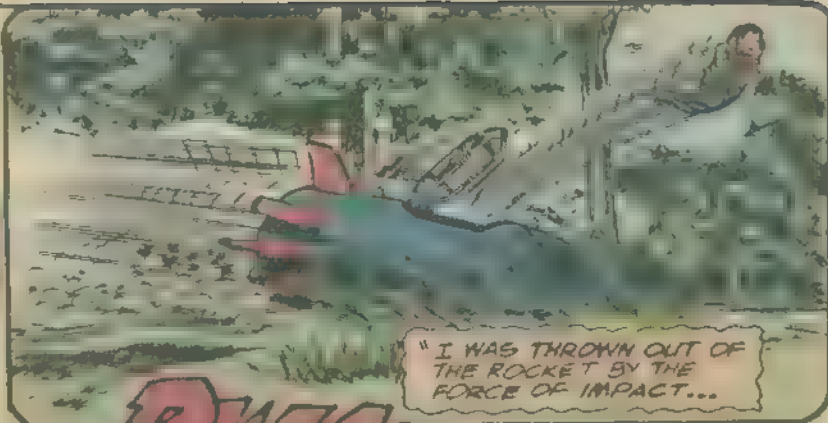
WHILE OVERHEAD, SUPERMAN IS DEEP IN A REVERIE OF REMINISCENCE...



REMEMBER THE ROCKET COMING TO EARTH...

"... AND THOUGH IT
CRASHED, THE ROCKET
WASN'T DAMAGED--
AND I WASN'T EVEN
SCRATCHED!

"UNDER THE
INFLUENCE
OF EARTH'S
ENVIRON-
MENT, I--
AND EVERY-
THING ELSE
FROM
KRYPTON
THAT CAME
WITH ME--
WAS ALREADY
INVULNERABLE!



"I WAS THROWN OUT OF
THE ROCKET BY THE
FORCE OF IMPACT...

"...AS--IN THE
NEXT SECOND--
THE ROCKET
EXPLODED!
IT WAS ONLY
THE COMBUSTION
OF ITS FUEL--
WHICH HAD
ALSO BECOME
'SUPER'--THAT
WAS ABLE TO
SHATTER THE
ROCKET INTO
FRAGMENTS...

BWAPPOOM!

TARNATION!
WHA-WHAT
WAS THAT?!



IT--IT LOOKS LIKE
IT WAS ONE O' THEM
NEW-FANGLED
ROCKETS--!



MAYBE
THERE
WAS
SOMETHIN'
INSIDE
IT!

JONATHAN--FOR
HEAVEN'S SAKE,
BE CAREFUL!

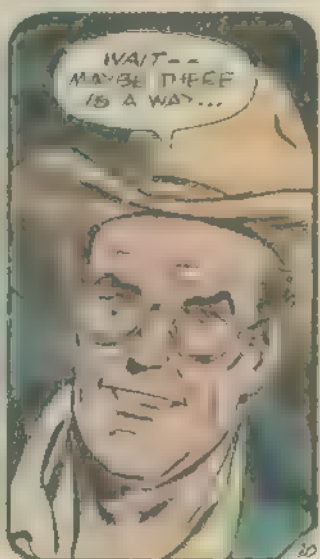
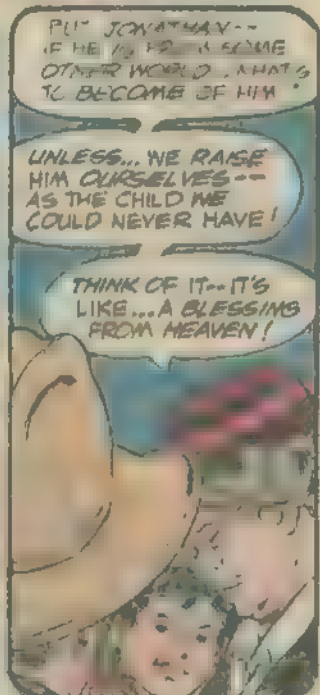
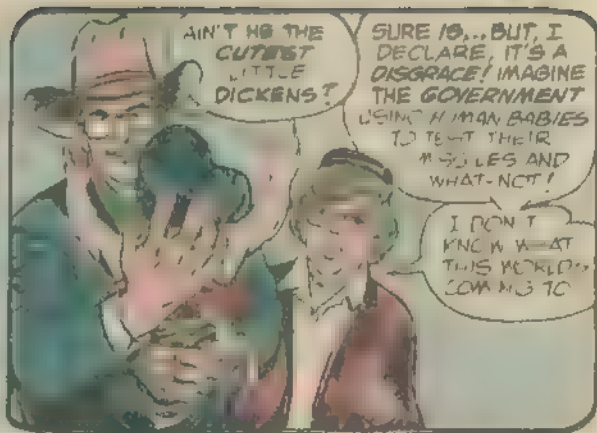
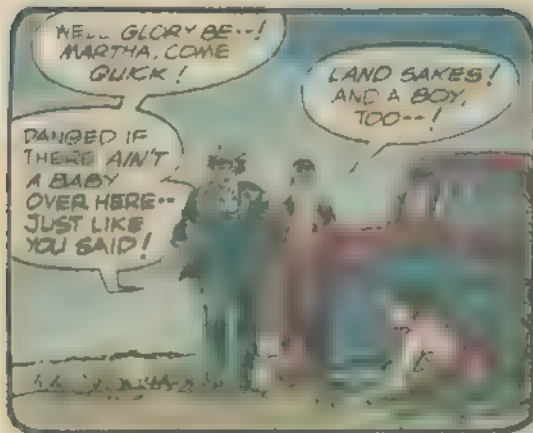


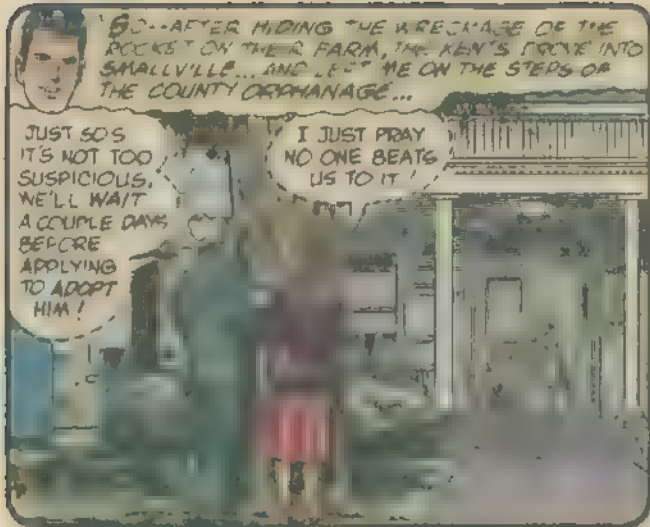
WAAH! WAAH!

WAIT A SPELL,
JONATHAN--
D'YOU HEAR
SOMETHING?

SOUNDS LIKE...
A BABY--
CRYING!







SO--AFTER HIDING THE WRECKAGE OF THE ROCKET ON THEIR FARM, THE KEN'S DROVE INTO SMALLVILLE... AND LEFT ME ON THE STEPS OF THE COUNTY ORPHANAGE...

JUST SO'S IT'S NOT TOO SUSPICIOUS, WE'LL WAIT A COUPLE DAYS BEFORE APPLYING TO ADOPT HIM!

I JUST PRAY NO ONE BEATS US TO IT!



BUT, OF COURSE NO ONE DID...

GOODBYE... AND GOOD LUCK!

DON'T YOU WORRY-- WE'LL BE GOOD PARENTS TO THE BOY!

WE LOVE LITTLE CLARK ALREADY-- AND WE'LL RAISE HIM WITH PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING!



THEY WERE PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING ALL RIGHT THEY HAD TO BE--CONSIDERING THE SURPRISES IN STORE FOR THEM...

JUMPIN' JEHOASHAPHAT! THAT ANGRY BULL BUTTED CLARK--AND HE DIDN'T EVEN BUDGE!?!?

AND NOW HE'S UPROOTING A TREE-STUMP WITH HIS BARE HANDS!!



IT'S INCREDIBLE BUT OBVIOUSLY CLARK IS NO ORDINARY LITTLE BOY!



I SEE RING YOU LOST, MOMMY-- IN CLOSET!



NOW, GON?-- UNLESS YOU CAN SEE THRO' AN THING'S IT!

"IN THE MY PARENTS EARNED OF ALL MY SUPER-POWERS..."



"HAVING SUCH A--UM--GIFTED SON WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS FRUSTRATIONS, THOUGH..."

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MARTHA! OUR SON IS DEFINITELY A... SUPER-BABY!

CLARK! HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU NOT TO RIDE YOUR TRICYCLE AT SUPER-SPEED?!

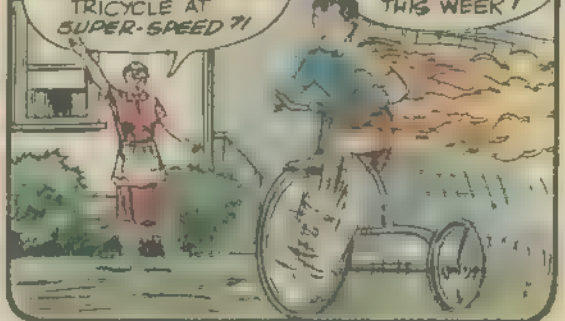
THAT'S THE THIRD PLAYSUIT YOU'VE BURNED UP FROM AIR-FRICTION THIS WEEK!

Ran faster than Pick-up truck! (SUPER-SPEED)

Chased bird in air! (FLYING POWER)

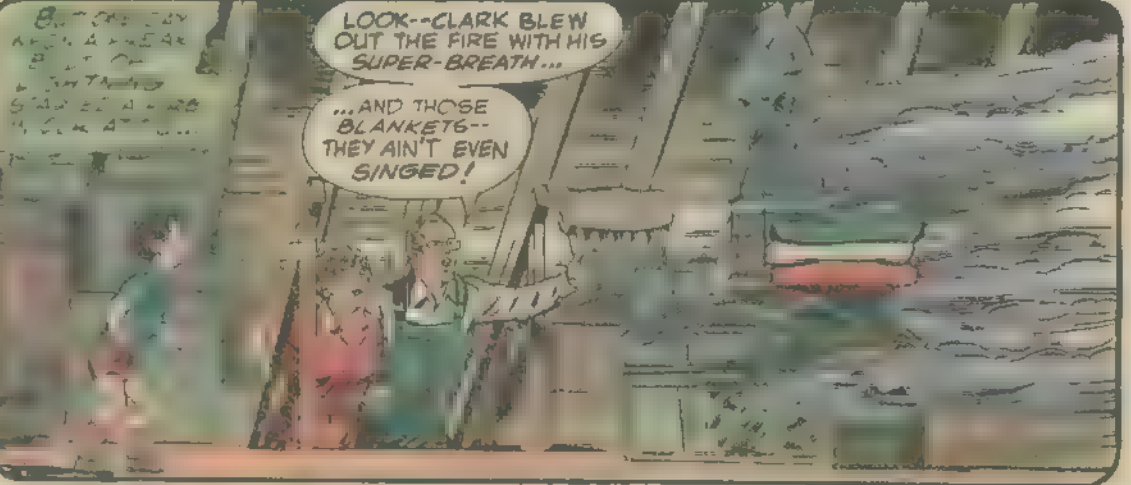
Gazed at frozen lake and thawed it! (HEAT VISION)

Watched movie in next county! (TELESCOPIC VISION)



LOOK--CLARK BLEW OUT THE FIRE WITH HIS SUPER-BREATH...

...AND THOSE BLANKETS-- THEY AIN'T EVEN SINGED!

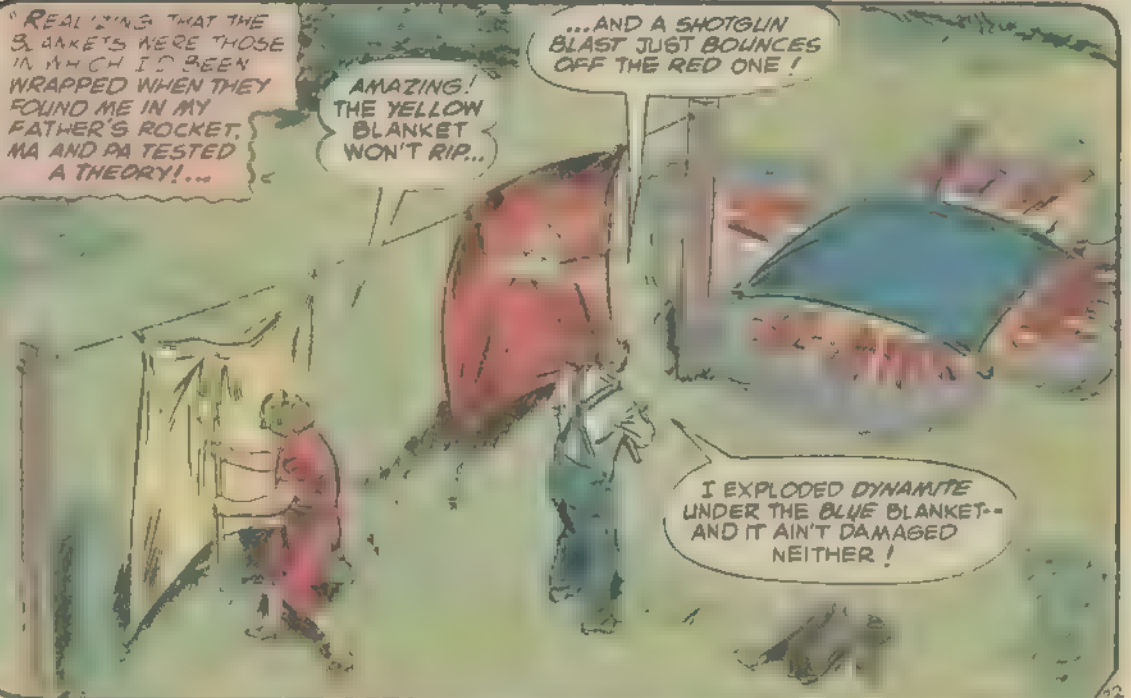


"REALIZING THAT THE BLANKETS WERE THOSE IN WHICH I'D BEEN WRAPPED WHEN THEY FOUND ME IN MY FATHER'S ROCKET, MA AND PA TESTED A THEORY!..."

AMAZING! THE YELLOW BLANKET WON'T RIP...

...AND A SHOTGUN BLAST JUST BOUNCES OFF THE RED ONE!

I EXPLODED DYNAMITE UNDER THE BLUE BLANKET-- AND IT AIN'T DAMAGED NEITHER!



"AFTER A SERIES OF EXHAUSTIVE TESTS, MY FOLKS CONCLUDED THAT ALL THE BLANKETS WERE EQUALLY AS INDESTRUCTIBLE AS THEIR SON! SO...

THOUGH THERE'S NO WAY TO CUT THIS STRANGE KNIT-MATERIAL--IT CAN BE UNRAVELED!

"BUT AFTER KNITTING A SPECIAL GARMENT FOR ME, MA DISCOVERED THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO SEVER IT FROM THE REST OF THE YARN: WITH MY HEAT VISION!

"THE RESULT: A SUPER-PLAYSUIT THAT COULD STAND UP TO ANY PUNISHMENT I COULD DOH OUT!"

MY PARENTS THOUGHT IT BEST TO KEEP MY SUPER-POWERS A SECRET WHILE I WAS GROWING UP!

THEY WERE DETERMINED THAT I'D HAVE A "NORMAL" CHILDHOOD--DESPITE MY UNIQUENESS!

"FOR EXAMPLE WHEN THEY SOLD THE R FARM AND MOVED INTO DOWNTOWN SMALLVILLE TO OPEN A GENERAL STORE..."

"... I BEGAN TO WORK IN THE STORE PART--TIME TO EARN MY SPENDING MONEY, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER YOUNG BOY..."

"AND ALSO LIKE THE AVERAGE AMERICAN BOY I HAD HEART-TO-HEART CHATS WITH MY FATHER--OH--I MEAN WE'RE UNIQUE..."

DAD YOU'VE TAUGHT ME THAT ONE DAY I SHOULD USE MY POWERS TO HELP PEOPLE--AND BE LIKE A SUPER--

POWERFUL MAN!

I THINK I'M OLD ENOUGH TO START DOING THAT NOW!



BUT I'LL
NEED A
UNIFORM--
SO PEOPLE
WILL
RECOGNIZE
ME RIGHT
AWAY!

IT'LL HAVE
TO BE
INDESTRUCTIBLE,
TOO--SO I UN-
RAVELED MY
BABY SUIT

AND MA
MADE ME
THIS !!



"BUT I WASN'T COMPLETELY SATISFIED
WITH THE COSTUME I'D DESIGNED..."

MY NEW OUTFIT NEEDS
A BELT AND BOOTS--
BUT IT'S TAKEN ME DAYS
TO FIGURE OUT WHAT
TO MAKE THEM OUT
OF!

NOW--
FINALLY--
I HAVE
THE
ANSWER!



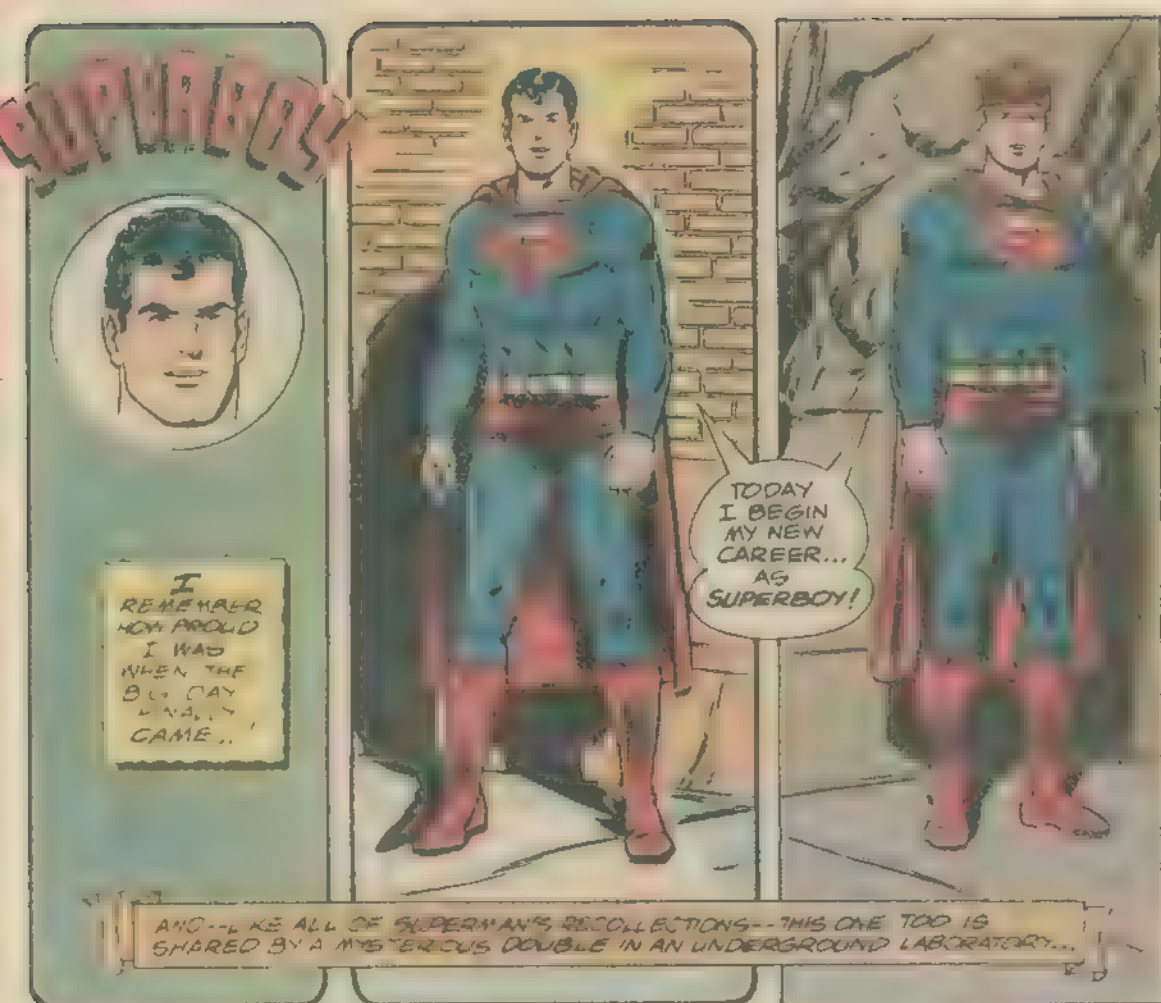
"THE SEAT BELT THAT HAD STRAPPED
ME TO THE ROCKET BECAME THE
BELT OF MY COSTUME!"

"THE UPHOLSTERY OF
THE RECLINER IN THE
PASSENGER COMPART-
MENT OF THE
"PR. N.Y." MATERIAL
FOR MY BOOTS--"



"--WHICH I STITCHED TOGETHER
WITH A SUPER-NEEDLE MADE
FROM A SLIVER OF METAL
FROM THE ROCKET!"

AND THEN I DESIGNED
AN INSIGNIA--A
"S. N. Y." TO
STAND FOR MY
PERSONAL
NAME...



AND--LIKE ALL OF SUPERMAN'S RECOLLECTIONS--THIS ONE TOO IS SHARED BY A MYSTERIOUS DOUBLE IN AN UNDERGROUND LABORATORY...



STILL ABOUT THE "RANGE" SUPER-
HEROES... BUT THE WAY OF THE
COMMON PEOPLE... FEET ABOVE...



...THE NEXT WAS THE AGT POWER I HAD
...TO CONTROL...

BECAUSE I WAS
CAREFUL TO KEEP
MY POWERS SECRET
UP TILL THEN...

...I HADN'T
FLOWN
EXTENSIVELY...



THAT'S IT--THINK OF
YOUR HANDS AS
AILERONS AND YOUR
FEET AS FLAPS!

I THINK I'M
GETTING
THE HANG
OF IT, DAD!

'SINCE I HAD MY
DEVELOP AS A BOY--
AND THE WAY OF THE
COMMON WORLD
...I HAD MY
LIFE...



WHA--? A
FLYIN' BOY--
IN SOME
KINDA
COSTUME--?
THAT CAN'T
BE!

AM I
MISSIN'--
OR ARE
THEM
BULLETS
BOUNCIN'
OFF HIM??



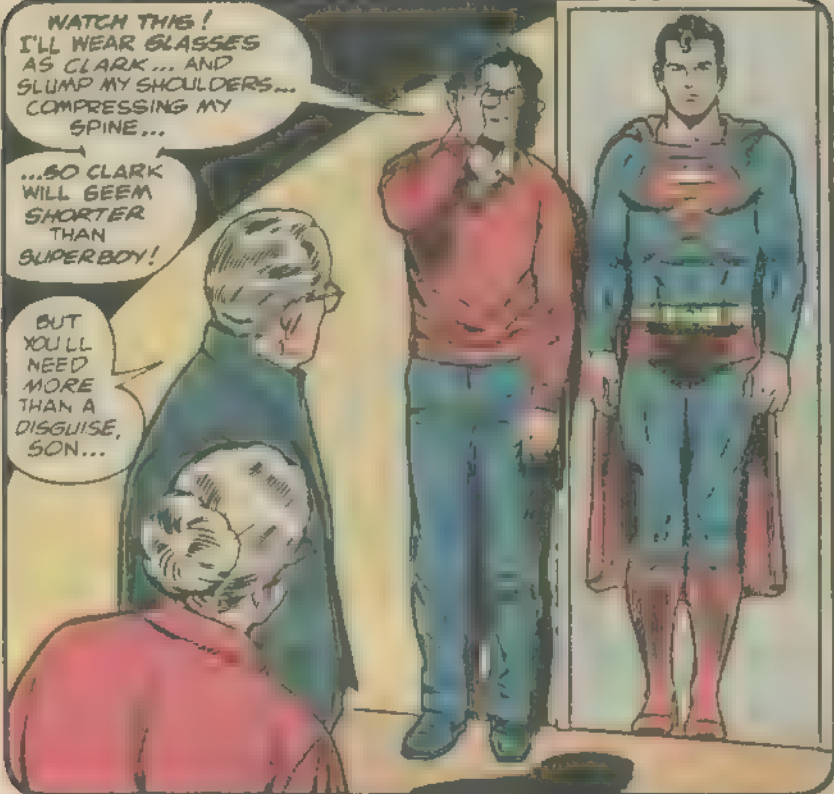
BUT THERE WAS ONE
THING THAT REMAINED
A SECRET...

...THE FACT THAT SUPERBOY
HAD PRIVATELY A "FEEGASER"
NAMED CLARK KENT...



MY EVERYDAY
IDENTITY CAN'T BE
PUBLICLY KNOWN!

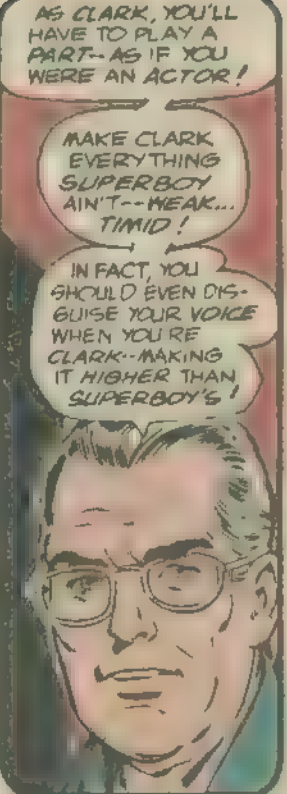
IF CRIMINALS KNEW WHO I
WAS, THEY'D GET THEIR REVENGE
AGAINST ME BY STRIKING AT YOU!



WATCH THIS!
I'LL WEAR GLASSES
AS CLARK... AND
SLUMP MY SHOULDERS...
COMPRESSING MY
SPINE...

...SO CLARK
WILL SEEM
SHORTER
THAN
SUPERBOY!

BUT
YOU'LL
NEED
MORE
THAN A
DISGUISE,
SON...



AS CLARK, YOU'LL
HAVE TO PLAY A
PART-- AS IF YOU
WERE AN ACTOR!

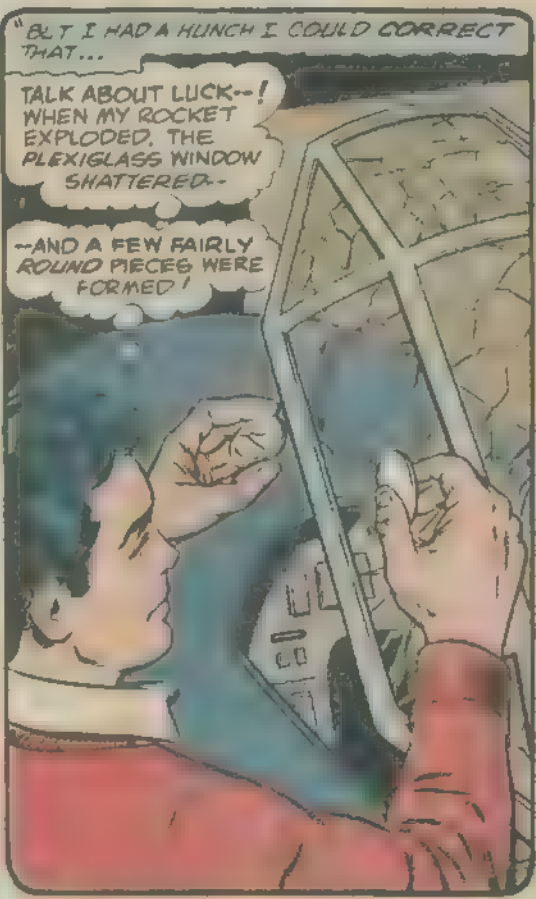
MAKE CLARK
EVERYTHING
SUPERBOY
AIN'T-- WEAK...
TIMID!

IN FACT, YOU
SHOULD EVEN DIS-
GUISE YOUR VOICE
WHEN YOU'RE
CLARK-- MAKING
IT HIGHER THAN
SUPERBOY'S!



"AND SO,
MY CLARK
KENT ACT'
WAS BORN--
AND IT
SEEMED TO
WORK WELL
EXCEPT FOR ONE
SMALL PROBLEM...

HOLY SMOKE!
IT NEVER
OCCURRED TO
ME-- THAT MY
HEAT VISION
WOULD MELT THE
LENSES OF MY
GLASSES!



"BUT I HAD A HUNCH I COULD CORRECT
THAT...

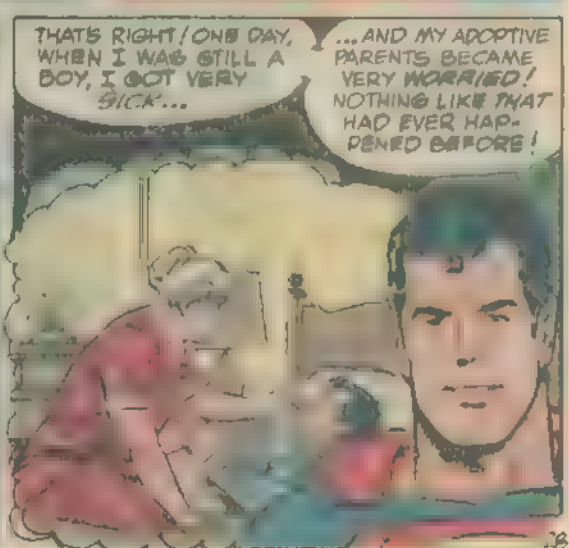
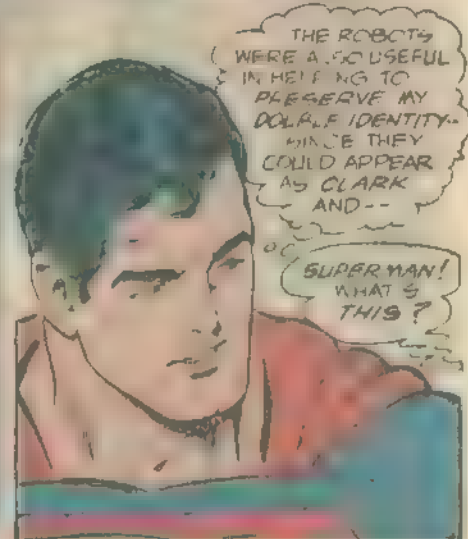
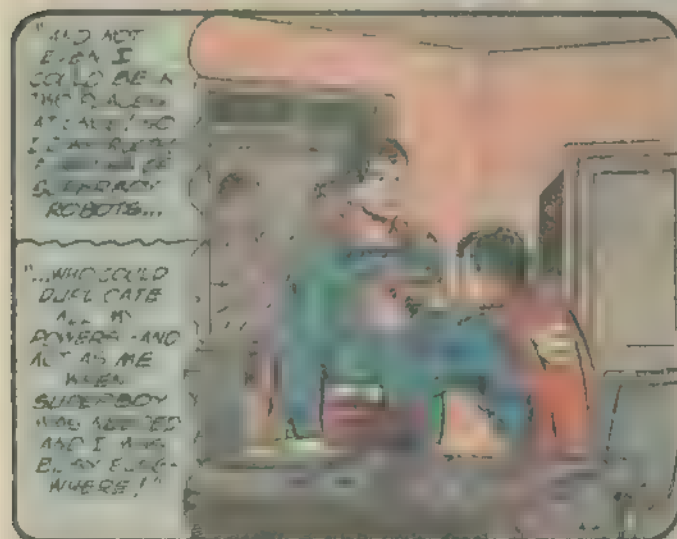
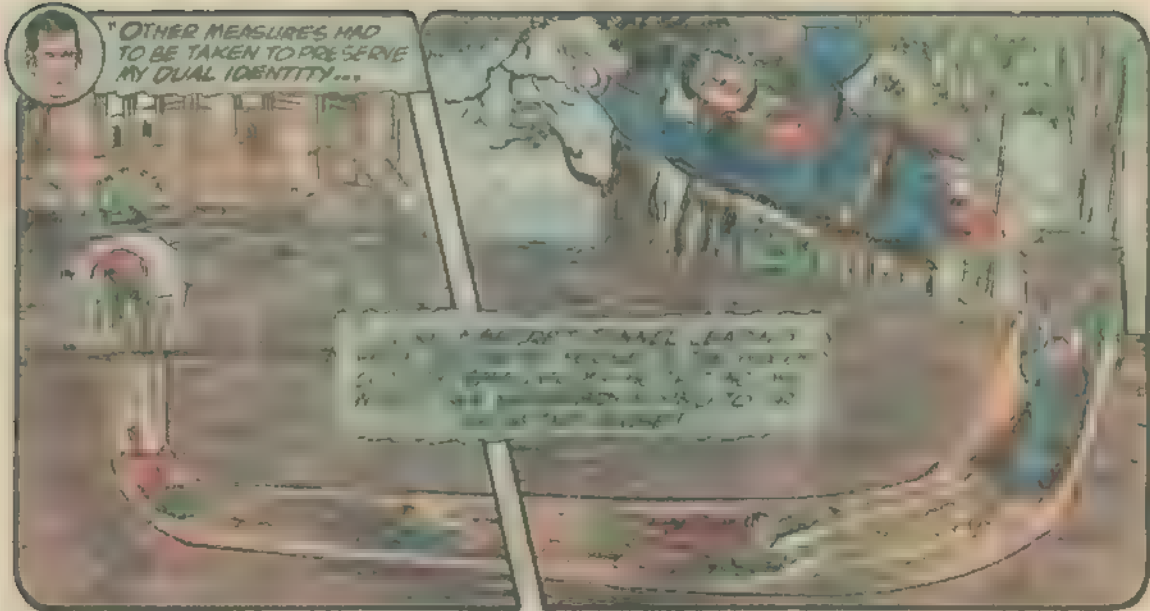
TALK ABOUT LUCK--!
WHEN MY ROCKET
EXPLODED, THE
PLEXIGLASS WINDOW
SHATTERED--

--AND A FEW FAIRLY
ROUND PIECES WERE
FORMED!



I'LL CREATE
FRAMES WHICH
WILL CONCEAL
THE UNEVEN
EDGES OF THESE
"LENSES"!

I'LL HAVE
~~THESE~~
WHICH WILL
WITHSTAND MY
VISION
POWERS!

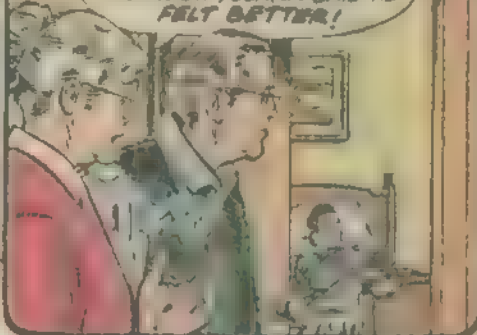




"MY PARENTS CONDUCTED A SERIES OF TESTS TO DISCOVER WHAT THE MATTER WAS - AND FINALLY,

JONATHAN--I THINK IT'S THIS GLOWING GREEN ROCK YOU FOUND FOR CLARK'S MINERAL COLLECTION THAT'S CAUSING IT!

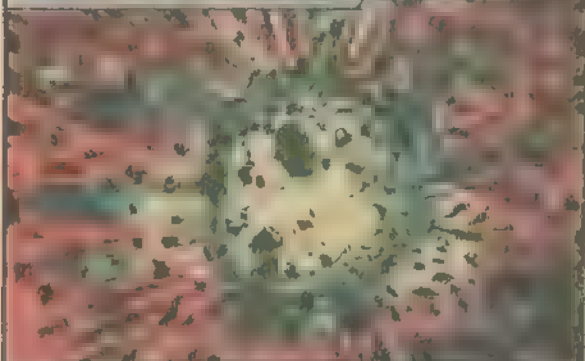
WHEN I TOOK IT OUT OF THE ROOM, CLARK SAID HE FELT BETTER!



I HAD MY ROBOTS EXAMINE THE ROCK-- AND IT WAS UNLIKE ANY KNOWN EARTH ELEMENT!

ON THE BASIS OF ITS RADIOACTIVITY, ATOMIC NUMBER, AND WEIGHT...

"...I COULD IMAGINE THAT IT WAS A FRAGMENT OF KRYPTON! I HAD BEEN BELIEVED RADIOACTIVE IN THE EXPLOSION THAT DESTROYED MY PLANET..."

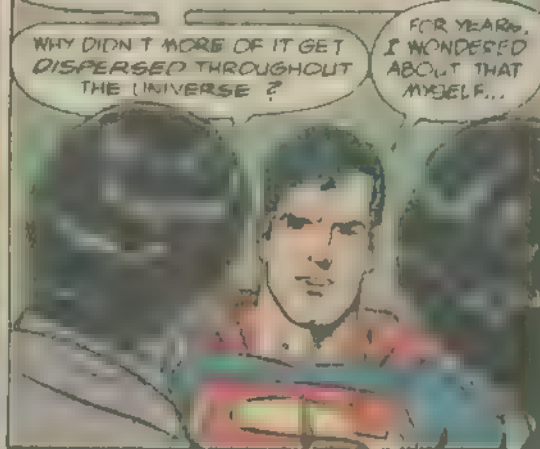


"...AND I KNEW THAT EARLY MAN HAD COME TO EARTH BECAUSE HIS RADIATIONS ARE LETHAL TO KRYPTONIANS!"

IT SEEMS LIKE AN AWFUL LOT OF KRYPTON WOUND UP ON EARTH-- JUDGING FROM HOW MUCH KRYPTONITE YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED!

WHY DIDN'T MORE OF IT GET DISPERSED THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE?

FOR YEARS, I WONDERED ABOUT THAT MYSELF...



THE HARD CORE OF MY FATHER'S EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET WAS AN UNTESTED PROTOTYPE. MY THEORY IS THAT IT WAS IMPERFECT...

"...AND IN CARRYING ME TO EARTH, THE SHIP OPENED UP A SPACE-WARP BETWEEN EARTH'S SOLAR SYSTEM AND KRYPTON'S..."



...AND ALL THAT KRYPTONITE--AS WELL AS A HORDE OF KRYPTONIAN ARTIFACTS--CAME TO EARTH...

...BECAUSE THEY WERE DRAWN THROUGH THE WARP!

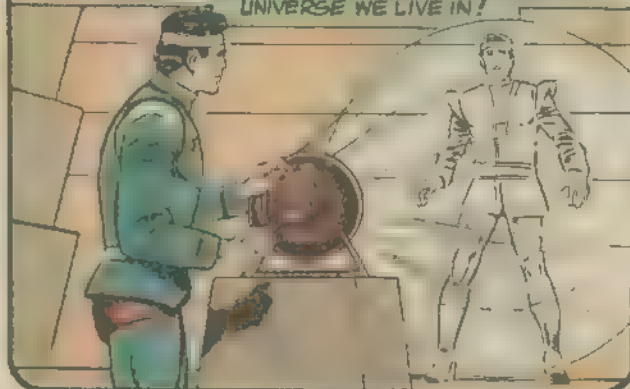


OVER THE YEARS, I DISCOVERED THINGS LIKE THIS CACHE OF KRYPTONIAN WEAPONS... AND THE PHANTOM ZONE RAY PROJECTOR!

IT HAD BEEN SHOT INTO SPACE BY MY FATHER...

...AND BECAUSE OF THAT, KRYPTON'S EXPLOSION DIDN'T TURN IT INTO KRYPTONITE!

"THE PHANTOM ZONE IS AN OTHER DIMENSIONAL WORLD INTO WHICH KRYPTON'S MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS WERE EXILED! IN THE ZONE THEY EXISTED AND STILL EXIST AS FORMLESS WRAITHS... UNABLE TO AFFECT THE UNIVERSE WE LIVE IN!"

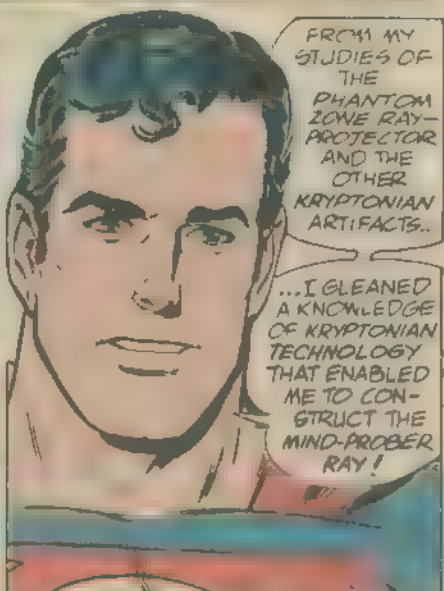


"FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE THESE EXILED CRIMINALS CAN SEE AND HEAR EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN OUR WORLD--BUT CANNOT BE SEEN OR HEARD..."



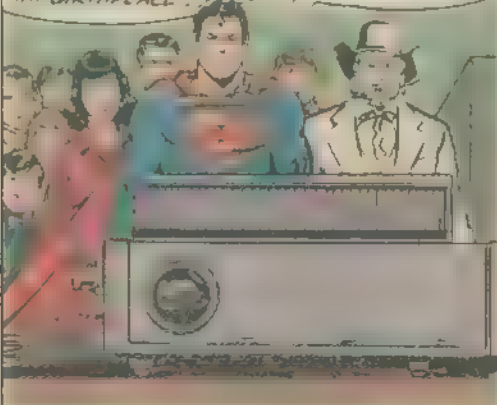
FROM MY STUDIES OF THE PHANTOM ZONE RAY-PROJECTOR AND THE OTHER KRYPTONIAN ARTIFACTS...

...I GLEANED A KNOWLEDGE OF KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY THAT ENABLED ME TO CONSTRUCT THE MIND-PROBER RAY!



WITH THE MIND-PROBER FLESHING OUT MY CONSCIOUS MEMORIES OF KRYPTON, I DEVELOPED A CLEARER PICTURE OF MY BIRTHPLACE...

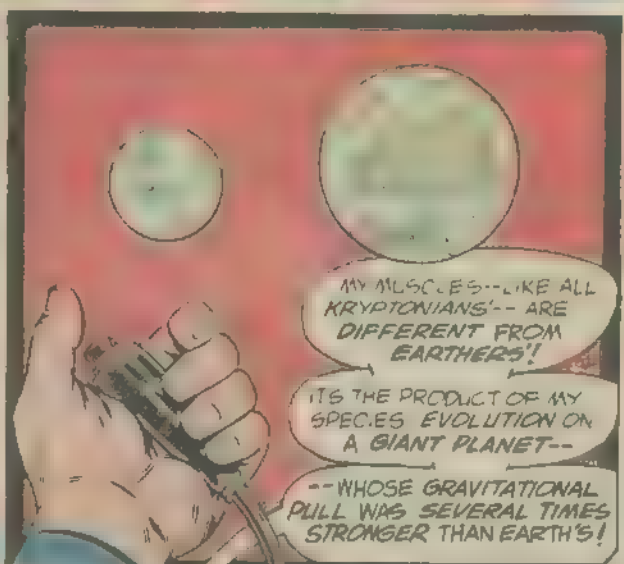
...WHICH, IN TURN, ENABLED ME TO FORM A THEORY ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF MY SUPER-POWERS!



MY MUSCLES--LIKE ALL KRYPTONIANS--ARE DIFFERENT FROM EARTHERS!

IT'S THE PRODUCT OF MY SPECIES EVOLUTION ON A GIANT PLANET--

--WHOSE GRAVITATIONAL PULL WAS SEVERAL TIMES STRONGER THAN EARTH'S!



THE LIGHTER GRAVITY OF EARTH--
IN COMBINATION WITH THE EFFECTS
OF OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DIFFERENCES--PRODUCED 'SUPER-
POWERED MUSCLES'---

--GIVING ME
SUPER-STRENGTH,
SUPER-SPEED,
SUPER-LUNGS...

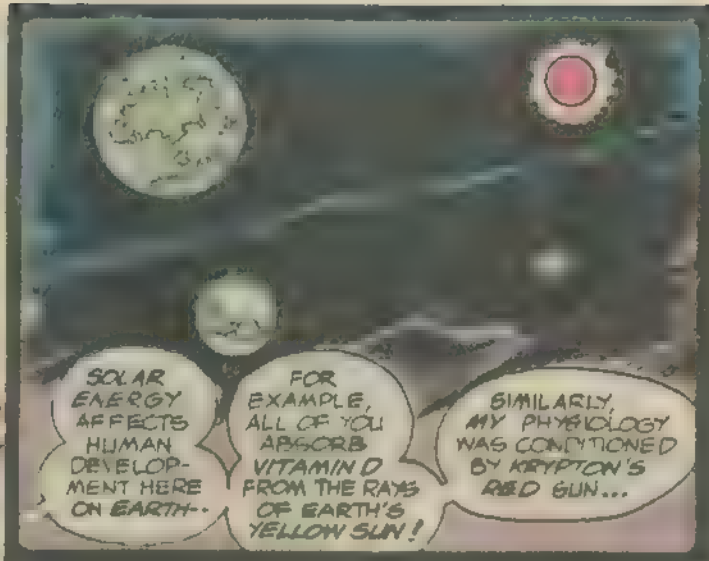
...AND AN
ANTI-GRAVITY
CAPABILITY THAT
ENABLES ME TO
FLY!



SOLAR
ENERGY
AFFECTS
HUMAN
DEVELOP-
MENT HERE
ON EARTH--

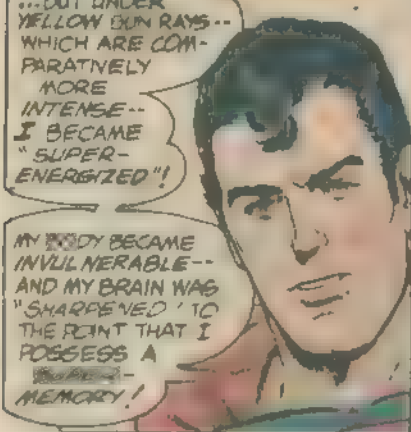
FOR
EXAMPLE,
ALL OF YOU
ABSORB
VITAMIN D
FROM THE RAYS
OF EARTH'S
YELLOW SUN!

SIMILARLY
MY PHYSIOLOGY
WAS CONDITIONED
BY KRYPTON'S
RED SUN...



...BUT UNDER
YELLOW SUN RAYS--
WHICH ARE COM-
PARATIVELY
MORE
INTENSE--
I BECAME
'SUPER-
ENERGIZED'!

MY BODY BECAME
INVULNERABLE--
AND MY BRAIN WAS
'SHARPENED' TO
THE POINT THAT I
POSSESS A
~~SUPER~~-
MEMORY!



MY SENSORY-
RECEPTORS
WERE MADE
MORE ACUTE,
TOO--

--SO THAT
MY EYES
PERCEIVE
MANY
BANDS
OF THE
SPECTRUM
INVISIBLE
TO 'NORMAL'
MEN...AND
CAN EVEN
EMIT
CERTAIN
RAYS..

...AND
MY EARS
CAN HEAR
SOUNDS
BEYOND
EARTH-
PEOPLE'S
HEARING
RANGE!



ALL OF
WHICH MADE
ME REALIZE
I WAS
UNIQUE!

OR I WAS--
UNTIL THE ROCKET
CONTAINING KRYPTO
EVENTUALLY FELL
TO EARTH!

AND, OF COURSE, MY
DOG DEVELOPED
~~SUPER STRENGTH~~
TOO!



BETCHA
THAT WAS
A REAL
BUMMER!
I MEAN
YOU WEREN'T
SO SPECIAL
ANYMORE,
WERE YOU?

NO...BUT
ACTUALLY,
I WAS
GRATEFUL
FOR THAT.

BEFORE
KRYPTO
ARRIVED, I WAS
KIND OF...WELL..
LONELY.



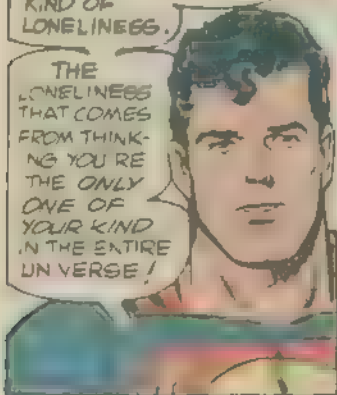
LONELY?
YOU HAD
YOUR
ADOPTIVE
PARENTS!
I'M SURE
THEY
LOVED
YOU...

AND WHAT
ABOUT YOUR
FRIENDS--
LIKE ME?
DIDN'T WE
COUNT?



OF COURSE LANA...
LOIS. BUT I'M TALKING
ABOUT SOMETHING
ELSE--A DIFFERENT
KIND OF
LONELINESS.

THE
LONELINESS
THAT COMES
FROM THINK-
ING YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE OF
YOUR KIND
IN THE ENTIRE
UNIVERSE!



"BUT WHEN KRYPTON'S REMAINS
LANDED ALL THAT CHANGED!"

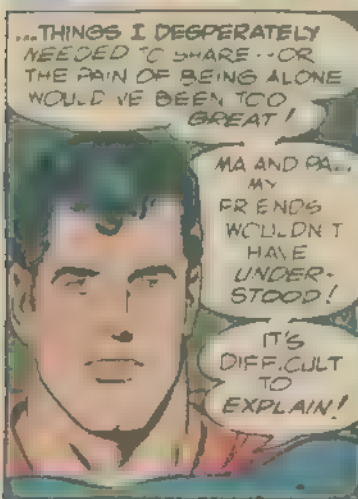


IN THE YEARS
I WAS GROWING
UP... EARNING
ABOUT LIFE
AS A MAN
THERE WERE THINGS
I COULD SHARE
WITH THEM...

...THINGS I DESPERATELY
NEEDED TO SHARE--OR
THE PAIN OF BEING ALONE
WOULD'VE BEEN TOO
GREAT!

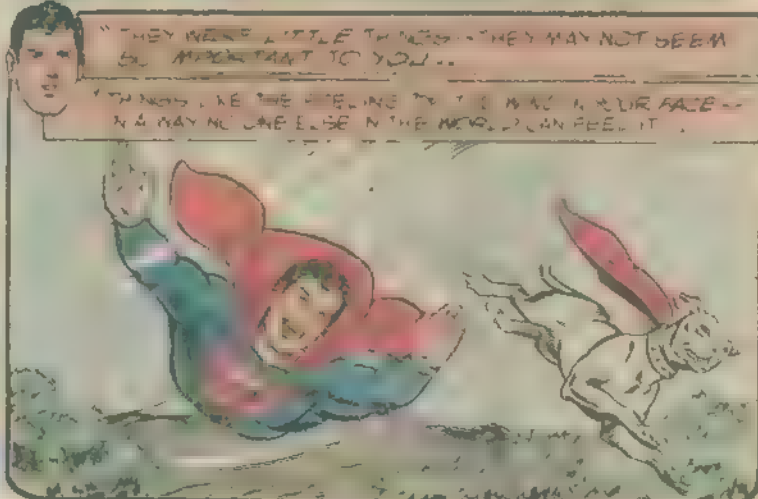
MA AND PA...
MY
FRIENDS
WOULDN'T
HAVE
UNDER-
STOOD!

IT'S
DIFFICULT
TO
EXPLAIN!



"THEY WERE LITTLE THINGS--THEY MAY NOT SEEM
SO IMPORTANT TO YOU..."

...THINGS LIKE BEING LONELY TO SEE A MAN'S FACE--
IN A WAY NO ONE ELSE IN THE WORLD CAN FEEL IT.



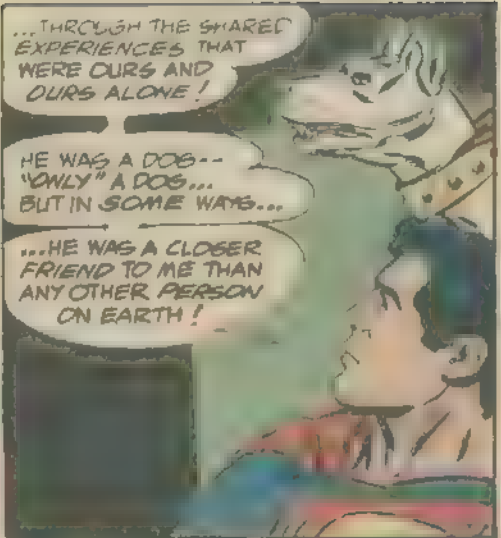
"...OR THE SOUND BULLETS MAKE
WHEN THEY BOUNCE OFF LIVING FLESH..."





AND I DON'T MATTER THAT WE COULDN'T TALK--AT LEAST NOT THE WAY PEOPLE DO TO EACH OTHER!

BECAUSE WE COULD COMMUNICATE--IN OUR OWN SPECIAL WAY...



...THROUGH THE SHARED EXPERIENCES THAT WERE OURS AND OURS ALONE!

HE WAS A DOG-- "ONLY" A DOG... BUT IN SOME WAYS...

...HE WAS A CLOSER FRIEND TO ME THAN ANY OTHER PERSON ON EARTH!



WHERE IS HE TODAY SUPERMAN

OFF IN SPACE SOMEWHERE I IMAGINE!

THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS LIKE A PLAYGROUND TO HIM, YOU KNOW.



HMM IMAGINE GETTING THAT CHOKED UP OVER A DOG!

RIDICULOUS..!

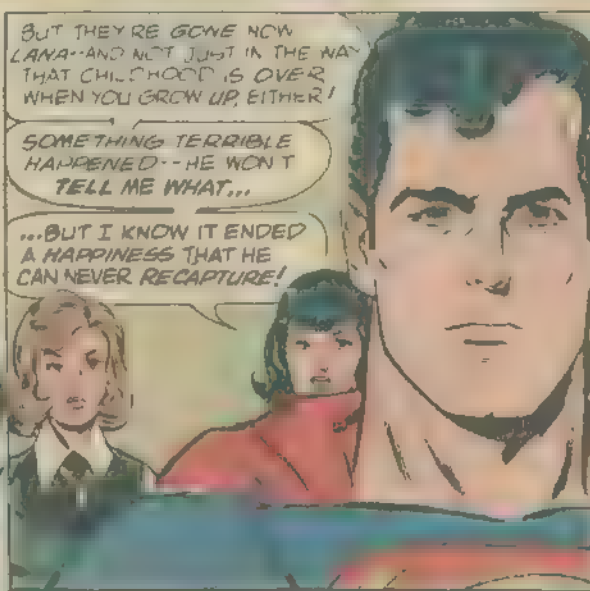
HONESTLY LANA! SOMETIMES YOU HAVE THE SENSITIVITY OF A BRICK!



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I DON'T JUST KRYPTO--IT'S.. ITS EVERYTHING...

...EVERYTHING THIS ROOM REMINDS HIM OF-- SMALLVILLE... BEING SUPERBOY..!

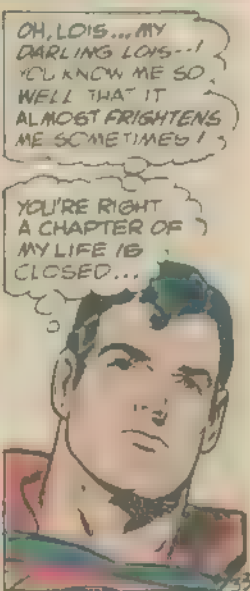
HE'S TOLD ME THAT THOSE WERE THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF HIS LIFE!



BUT THEY'RE GONE NOW LANA--AND NOT JUST IN THE WAY THAT CHILDHOOD IS OVER WHEN YOU GROW UP, EITHER!

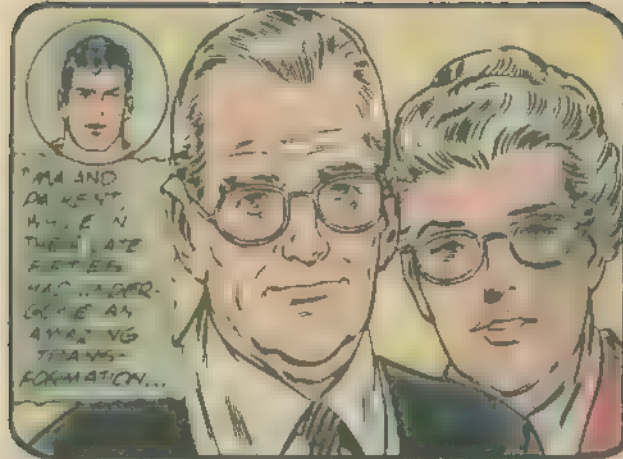
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED--HE WON'T TELL ME WHAT...

...BUT I KNOW IT ENDED A HAPPINESS THAT HE CAN NEVER RECAPTURE!



OH, LOIS...MY DARLING LOIS--! YOU KNOW ME SO WELL THAT IT ALMOST FRIGHTENS ME SOMETIMES!

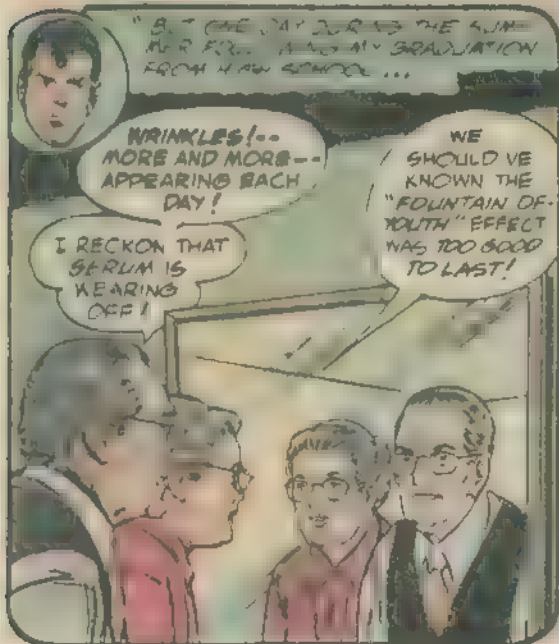
YOU'RE RIGHT A CHAPTER OF MY LIFE IS CLOSED...



"MA AND
PA KENT
WERE IN
THEir LATE
FIFTIES
HAD A BOY
CALLED AN
ADAM VS
TRANS-
FORMATION...



"... WHEN
THEY
DRANK
FROM A
WELL
THAT HAD
BEEN
'POL-
LUTED'
WITH AN
ALIEN
REJENE-
RATION
SERUM!



"BUT ONE DAY DURING THE SUM-
MER BREAK, AFTER MY GRADUATION
FROM HIGH SCHOOL ...

WRINKLES!--
MORE AND MORE--
APPEARING EACH
DAY!

WE
SHOULD VE
KNOWN THE
"FOUNTAIN OF
YOUTH" EFFECT
WAS TOO GOOD
TO LAST!

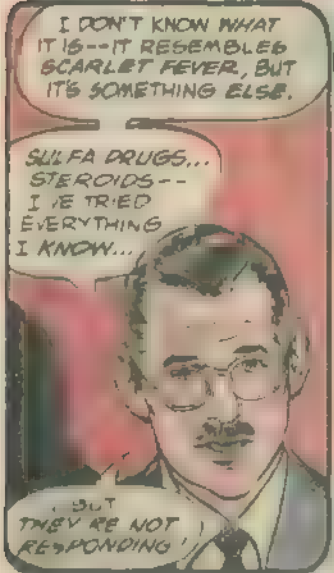
I RECKON THAT
SERUM IS
WEARING
OFF!



"ABOUT A MONTH LATER AFTER MY GRADUATION
AND I HET, RAN FROM A VACATION AT THE
CARIBBEAN THE KENTS FELL ILL ...

IT'S BAD, CLARK--
VERY BAD
THEY'RE TOO SICK
TO BE MOVED TO A
HOSPITAL!

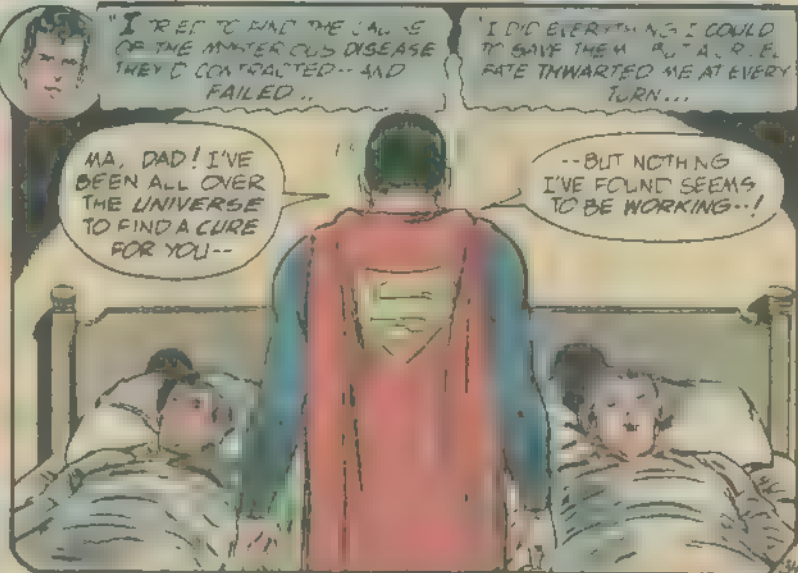
WHAT...
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THEM
DOCTOR?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT
IT IS--IT RESEMBLED
SCARLET FEVER, BUT
IT'S SOMETHING ELSE.

SULFA DRUGS...
STEROIDS--
I'VE TRIED
EVERYTHING
I KNOW...

BUT
THEY'RE NOT
RESPONDING!

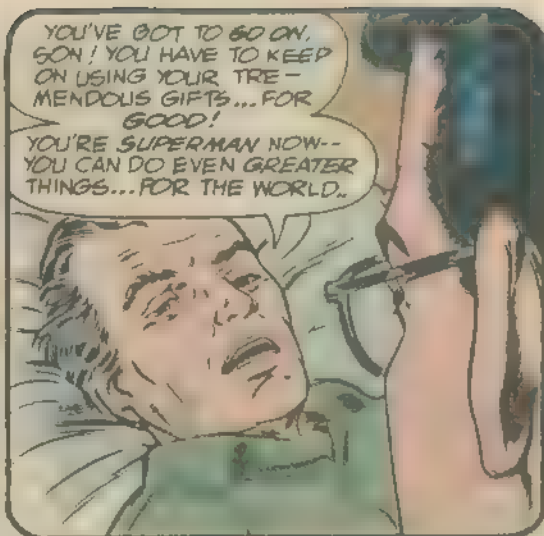
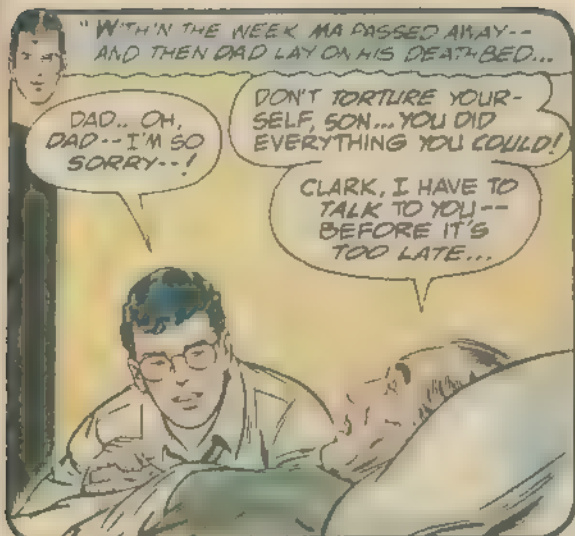


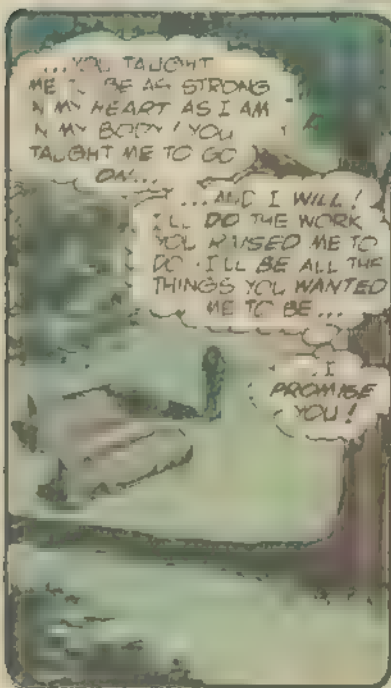
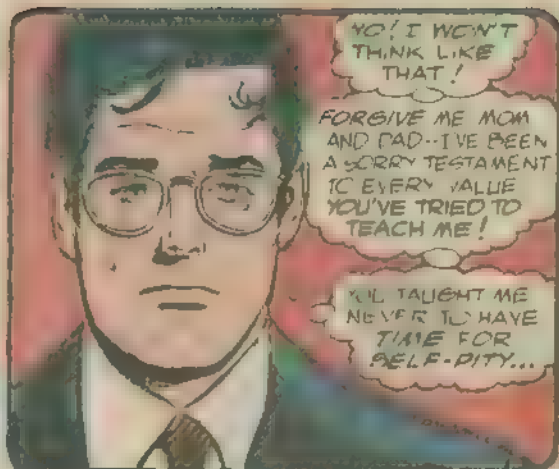
"I TRIED TO FIND THE CAUSE
OF THE MYSTERIOUS DISEASE
THEY'D CONTRACTED--AND
FAILED..

"I DID EVERYTHING I COULD
TO SAVE THEM. BUT A. R. E.
FATE THWARTED ME AT EVERY
TURN...

MA, DAD! I'VE
BEEN ALL OVER
THE UNIVERSE
TO FIND A CURE
FOR YOU--

--BUT NOTHING
I'VE FOUND SEEMS
TO BE WORKING--!





SUPERMAN--?

WE'RE--ah--
WAITING...

OH! FORGIVE ME... I I
MUST'VE GOTTEN LOST
IN THOUGHT.

I OUBES THAT'S TO BE
EXPECTED IN--OF--A
PLACE LIKE THIS.

I ALMOST FEEL LIKE A
SPINSTER DIGGING THROUGH
A ~~WIDE~~ ~~WIDE~~ ~~WIDE~~
CHEST.

...BUT I'LL
TRY NOT TO
GET WRAPPED
UP IN MY OWN
NOSTALGIA
AGAIN!

NOW IF YOU
FOLKS WILL
JUST FOLLOW
ME...

...TO THE
SUPERMAN
ROOM WHERE
WE'LL BEGIN
THE NEXT PART
OF OUR TOUR

THIS ROOM COVERS
THE NEXT PHASE OF
THE METROPOLY'S
MARVEL'S CAREER--
UP TO THE
PRESENT!

CHAPTER 3

CALL ME SUPERMAN

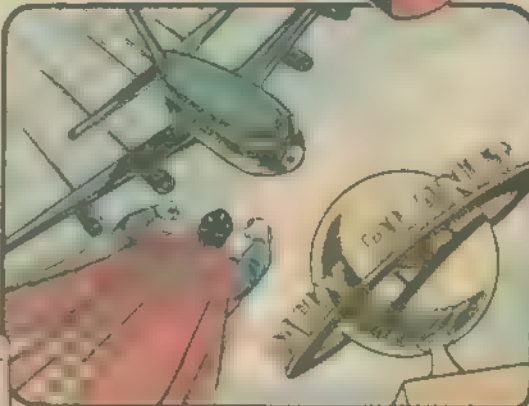


SHORTLY AFTER I TURNED 18 THE BIGGEST CITY NEAR SMALLVILLE-- WHICH WAS METROPOLIS, OF COURSE... I DISCOVERED THAT "SUPERBOY" WAS WATCHING OVER THEM NOW!

"BUT THEY SOON LEARNED TO CORRECT THAT MISNOMER!"

LOOK! UP IN THE SKY...

IT'S SUPERMAN!

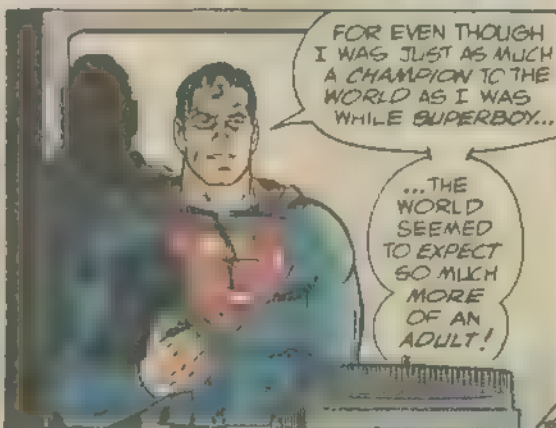
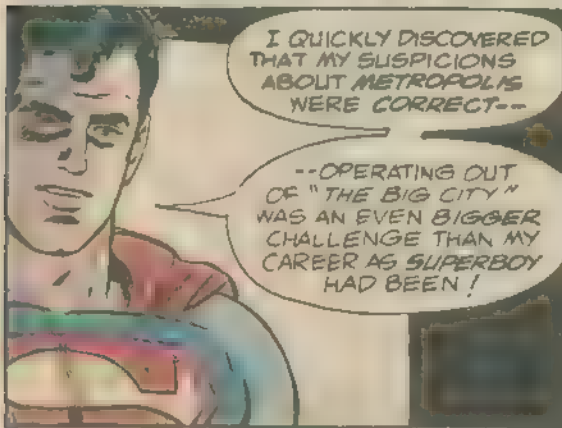


I QUICKLY DISCOVERED THAT MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT METROPOLIS WERE CORRECT--

--OPERATING OUT OF "THE BIG CITY" WAS AN EVEN BIGGER CHALLENGE THAN MY CAREER AS SUPERBOY HAD BEEN!

FOR EVEN THOUGH I WAS JUST AS MUCH A CHAMPION TO THE WORLD AS I WAS WHILE SUPERBOY...

...THE WORLD SEEMED TO EXPECT SO MUCH MORE OF AN ADULT!



"BUT MY FOUR YEARS AT METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY PREPARED ME WELL FOR THE CHALLENGE OF SUPER-MANHOOD!"



"THERE, I FURTHER REFINED MY CLARK KENT 'CHARACTERIZATION'..."

GEE, I'D LOVE TO GO OUT FOR VARSITY FOOTBALL...

...BUT THAT WOULD BE LIKE ADVERTISING THAT I'M SUPERMAN!

SIGH! I'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO THE IDEA THAT IN SPORTS, I'M DESTINED TO BE AN ETERNAL SPECTATOR!



"I ALSO DEVELOPED AN 'EXTRA TOUCH' I COULD ADD TO CLARK'S PERSONALITY..."

CLARK KENT... D.A. JOURNALISM... MAGNA CLUM LAUDE...

AND A SUMMA CUM LAUDE GRADUATE IN CLUMSINESS!



"BUT WHILE IN 'MIDNIGHT' A 'MIDNIGHT' I COULD REPERT A 'MIDNIGHT' FROM CLARKMAN 'MIDNIGHT' ON JOB INTERVIEWS..."

LISTEN, PALLY--TAKE MY ADVICE... FIND SOME OTHER RACKET!

YOU DON'T HAVE THE STUFF, UNDERSTAND? YOU SEEM SO HIGH-STRUNG YOU'LL FALL APART THE MINUTE YOU HAD TO MEET A DEADLINE!

"THAT'S WHAT I REALIZED THAT I WAS A 'MIDNIGHT' CAN'T CLARKMAN 'MIDNIGHT' CAN BE... 'MIDNIGHT' IN A 'MIDNIGHT'..."

I'M AN OVER-REACTOR, MR. WHITE--MAYBE EVEN A LITTLE NERVEY! BUT...

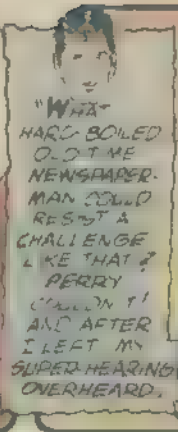
DO YOU WANT A JOB? WHY SHOULD YOU BE ANY DIFFERENT FROM A MILLION OTHER KIDS, KENT?



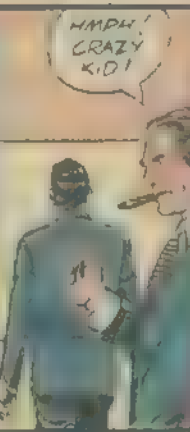


I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU -- IF I BRING YOU THE BIGGEST SCOOP YOU'VE HAD IN WEEKS, YOU HIRE ME -- AS A REPORTER!

IF NOT, I'LL QUIT BOTHERING YOU FOR GOOD!



"WHA-- HARD-BOILED GOT ME NEWSPAPER. MAN COULD RESIST A CHALLENGE LIKE THAT? PERRY CALLED ON 'I' AND AFTER I LEFT MY SUPER-HEARING OVERHEARD."



HMPH! CRAZY KID!



I DUNNO, PERRY-- THERE'S SOMETHING.. ABOUT HIM.

HE MAY COME ON LIKE A MAY-SEED--BUT I GET THE FEELING IT'S ALL JUST AN ACT-- AS THOUGH HE'S HIDING SOMETHING!



"ONE WEEK LATER..."

"SUPERMAN DEFEATS ANTI-SUPERMAN GANG WITH FAKE KRYPTONITE RUSE"--AND WITH PICTURES, NO LESS!

AND TO THINK LANE HERE HAS BEEN ON THIS STORY FOR A WEEK WITH NO RESULTS--!

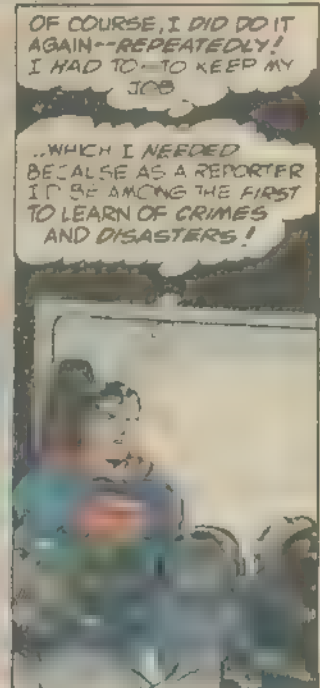


I ALMOST HATE TO SAY THIS BUT... YOU'RE HIRED, KID!



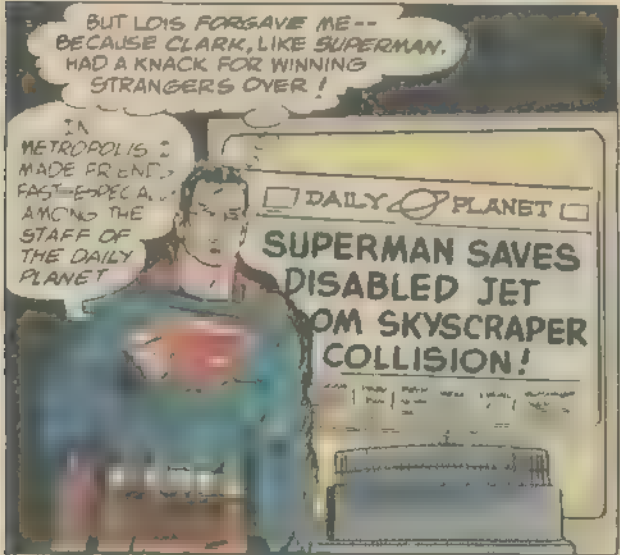
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID THAT, "MISTER" KENT--BUT UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR LIFE TO BE MISERABLE AROUND HERE

...DON'T EVER DO THAT TO ME AGAIN!



OF COURSE, I DID DO IT AGAIN--REPEATEDLY! I HAD TO--TO KEEP MY JOB

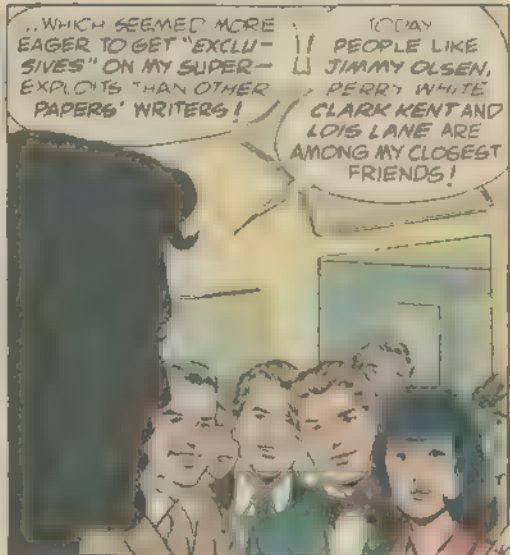
...WHICH I NEEDED BECAUSE AS A REPORTER I'D BE AMONG THE FIRST TO LEARN OF CRIMES AND DISASTERS!



BUT LOIS FORGAVE ME-- BECAUSE CLARK, LIKE SUPERMAN, HAD A KNACK FOR WINNING STRANGERS OVER!

IN METROPOLIS, MADE FRIENDS FAST--EVEN AMONG THE STAFF OF THE DAILY PLANET

☐ DAILY ☒ PLANET ☐
SUPERMAN SAVES DISABLED JET FROM SKYSCRAPER COLLISION!



...WHICH SEEMED MORE EAGER TO GET "EXCLUSIVES" ON MY SUPER-EXPLOITS THAN OTHER PAPERS' WRITERS!

TODAY PEOPLE LIKE JIMMY OLSEN, PERRY WHITE, CLARK KENT AND LOIS LANE ARE AMONG MY CLOSEST FRIENDS!

WHAT I CAN'T TELL THEM IS THE REAL REASON THE PLANET RAN SO MANY SUPERMAN SCODDS: I--AS CLARK KENT-- WAS WRITING THEM!

NOT THAT I HAVE A SUPER EGO OR ANYTHING...

...IT WAS JUST PART OF MY JOB!

BENING A WAGE EARNER WASN'T THE ONLY ADJUSTMENT I HAD TO MAKE TO POSING AS AN ORDINARY MAN, EITHER! IN FACT...

"...I SAID TO MYSELF THAT THE ADULT CLARK HAD TO HAVE SOMEONE TO HELP BE THE TEENAGE ONE..."

FOR EMERGENCE, I CAN KEEP SPARE-- BUT NOW SUPER-- COSTUMES...

AND AN EXTRA ROBOT OR TWO HERE IN THIS SECRET COMPARTMENT BEHIND CLARK'S CLOSET!

THIS IS A NICE APARTMENT-- UNFORTUNATELY IT DOESN'T HAVE THE ADVANTAGE THAT THE KENT HOME HAD

...NAMELY A SECRET TUNNEL! I'LL HAVE TO BE SURE I ALWAYS FLY FASTER THAN THE NAKED EYE CAN SEE...

...WHEN I LEAVE HERE AS SUPERMAN!

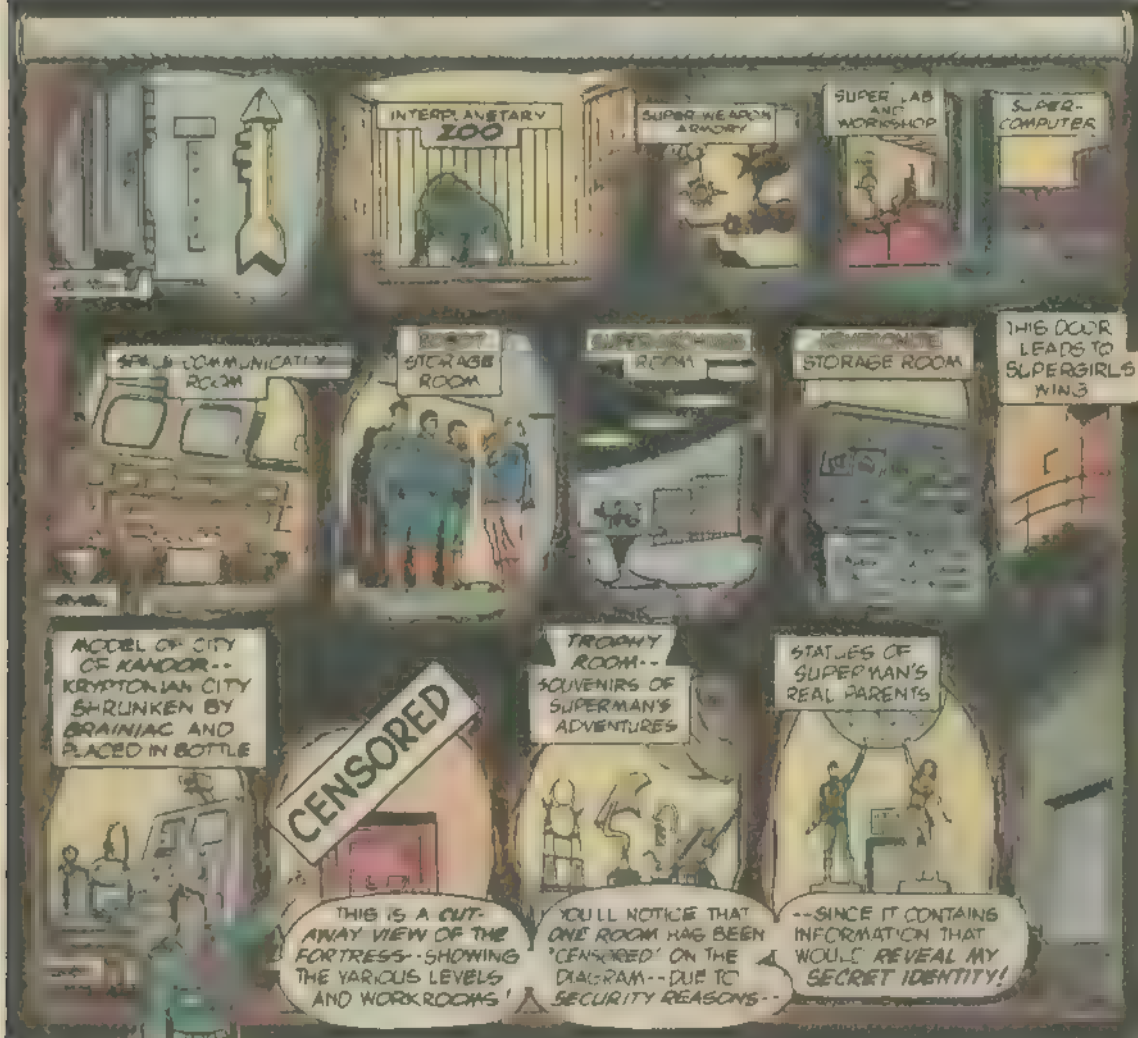
I HADN'T SOLD THE KENTS' HOUSE BUT I COULDN'T LEAVE MY EQUIPMENT THERE FOR SOMEONE TO FIND!

NEITHER COULD I FIT IT ALL INTO CLARK'S APARTMENT-- EVEN IF I WANTED TO RISK THAT, WHICH I DIDN'T!

AND SO I BUILT...

...MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE! IT'S IN THE ARCTIC, AND--AS YOU KNOW--ITS EXACT LOCATION REMAINS A SECRET!

"THE GIANT DOOR TO THE FORTRESS IS OPENED BY AN EQUALLY LARGE KEY..."



"SHE'S MY
COUSIN
KARA--THE
DAUGHTER OF
MY FATHER'S
BROTHER
ZOR-EL!

"THEY LIVED IN
ARGO CITY -
WHICH WAS
HURLED INTO
SPACE INTACT--
BECAUSE A
PLEA GLASS
DOME--WHEN
KRYPTON EXHOOED!

WHEN THE ASTEROID LAD IN AN OF
LAW, KRYPTON WAS DESTROYED, AND
APART OF THE KRYPTONIAN
PEOPLE WERE SENT TO EARTH--AND
KARA, MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER,
WAS BORN IN A SUPER-BLASTING

...AFTER THAT, THE KRYPTONIAN DAUGHTER
WAS SENT TO EARTH AND SHE HAD
SUPER-POWERS ON EARTH LIKE ALL KRYPTONIANS.

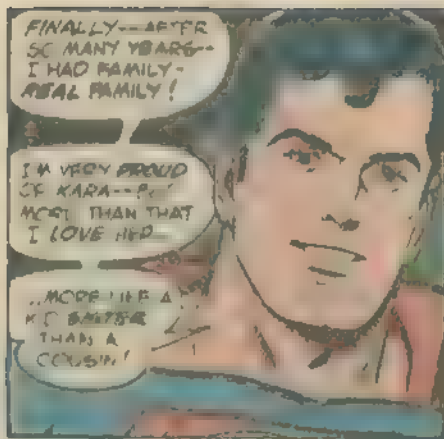
"...AND FOR A FEW YEARS
SHE WAS MY SECRET
HELPER--AT THE
UNIVERSITY TO MASTER HER
POWERS. ULTIMATELY, WE
REVEALED HER EXISTENCE
TO THE WORLD.

"...AND SHE'S BEEN A
SUPER-HERO IN HER
OWN RIGHT EVER SINCE!"

DAILY PLANET

SUPERMAN
REVEALS
EXISTENCE
OF SUPER-
POWERED
COUSIN!

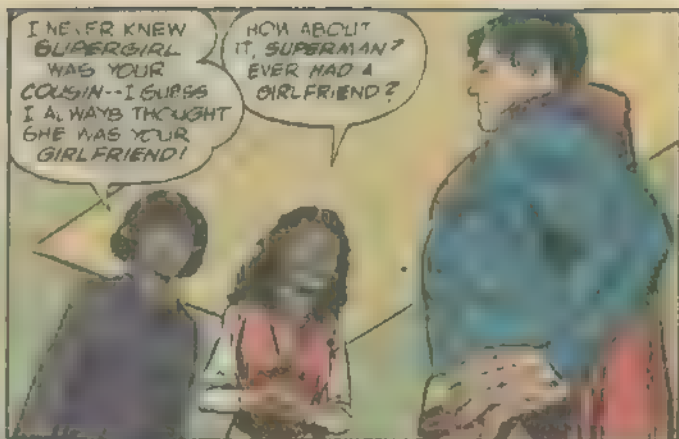




FINALLY--AFTER
SO MANY YEARS--
I HAD FAMILY--
REAL FAMILY!

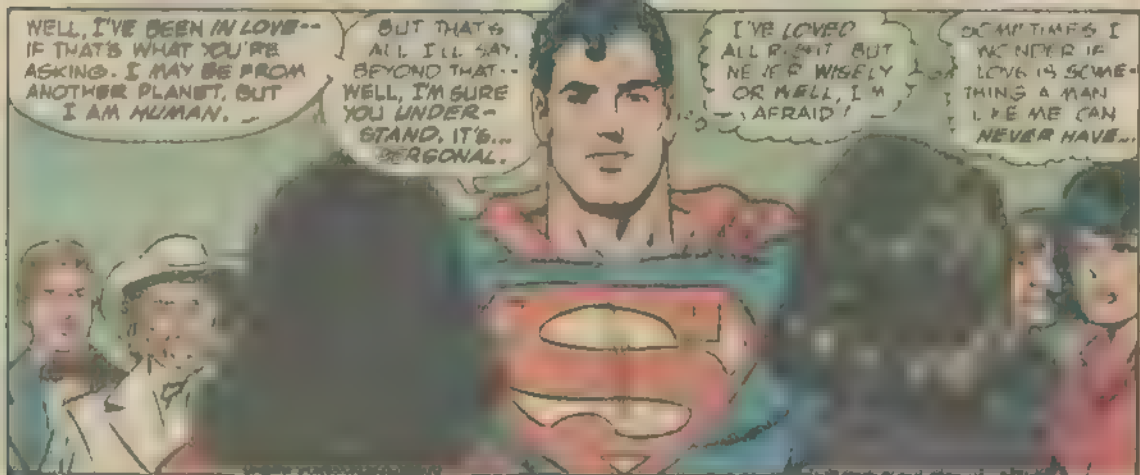
I'M VERY PROUD
OF KARA--P,
MORE THAN THAT
I LOVE HER

...MORE LIKE A
KID BROTHER
THAN A COUSIN!



I NEVER KNEW
SUPERGIRL
WAS YOUR
COUSIN--I GUESSES
I ALWAYS THOUGHT
SHE WAS YOUR
GIRLFRIEND!

HOW ABOUT
IT, SUPERMAN?
EVER HAD A
GIRLFRIEND?

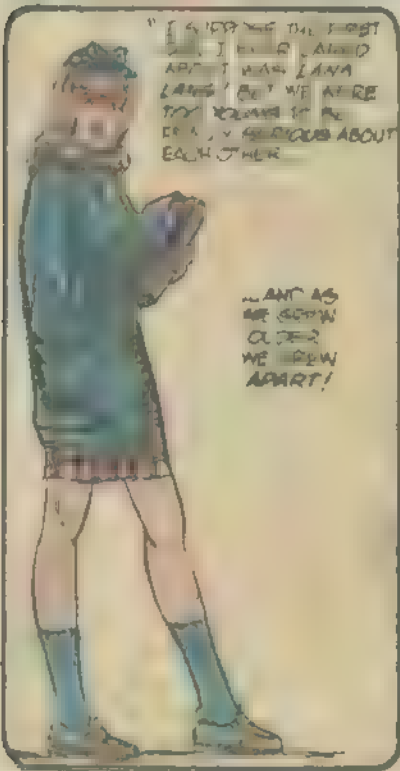


WELL, I'VE BEEN IN LOVE--
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE
ASKING. I MAY BE FROM
ANOTHER PLANET, BUT
I AM HUMAN.

BUT THAT'S
ALL I'LL SAY.
BEYOND THAT--
WELL, I'M SURE
YOU UNDER-
STAND. IT'S...
PERSONAL.

I'VE LOVED
ALL RIGHT BUT
NEVER WISELY
OR WELL, I'M
AFRAID!

SOMETIMES I
WONDER IF
LOVE IS SOME-
THING A MAN
LIKE ME CAN
NEVER HAVE...

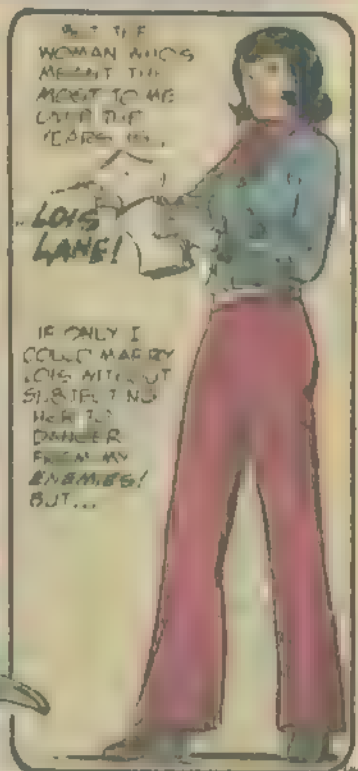


"I KIDNAPED THE FIRST
I KIDNAPED THE FIRST
ABOUT HAD LANA
LANE! BUT WE WERE
TOO YOUNG TO BE
ER... I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT
EACH OTHER

...AND AS
WE GROW
OLDER
WE GROW
APART!



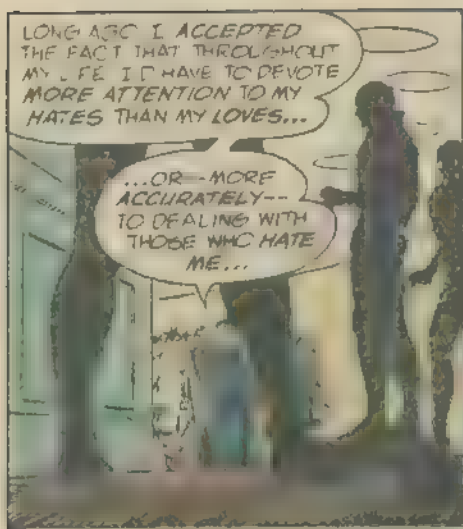
"AS A YOUNG MAN I
FELL FOR LOIS LANE--
A MERMAID FROM THE
SUNKEN CONTINENT OF
ATLANTIS! THAT
PIRATE SHIP WAS
DOOMED. WE WERE
TOO DIFFERENT.



"BUT THE
WOMAN WHO'S
MEANT TO
MEET TO ME
LATER THE
YEARS IN.

LOIS
LANE!

IF ONLY I
COULD MARRY
LOIS WITHOUT
SUSPECTING
HOW THE
DANGER
FROM MY
ENEMIES!
BUT...

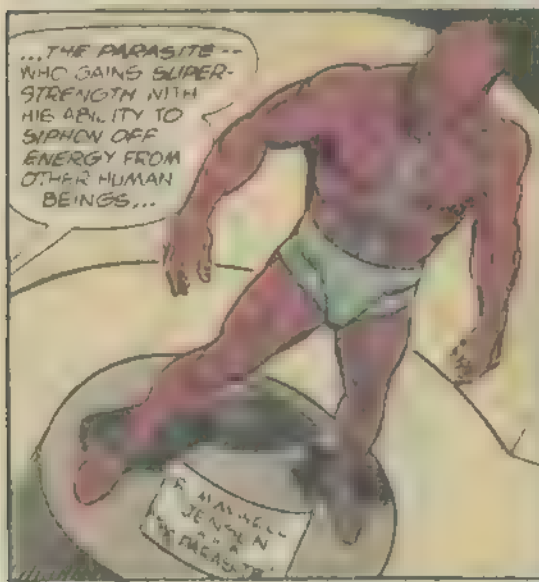


...OR--MORE ACCURATELY-- TO DEALING WITH THOSE WHO HATE ME...

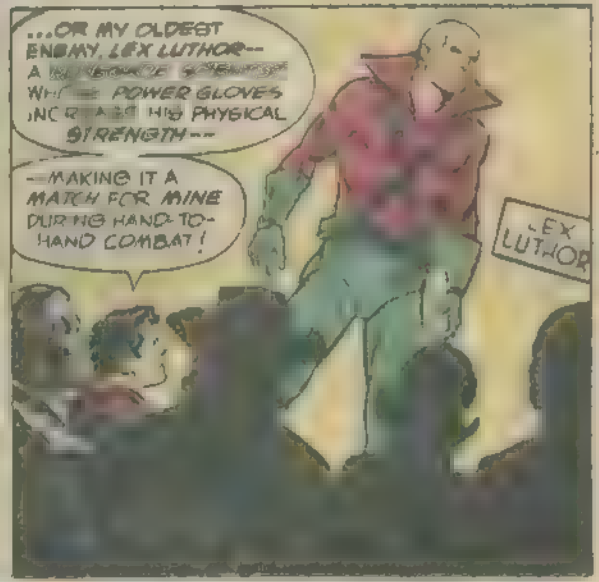


...A TOYMAKER WHO USES CHILDREN'S PLAYTHINGS AS WEAPONS IN HIS CRIMES...

WILLIAM F. FULTON
AKA
"THE TOYMAN"

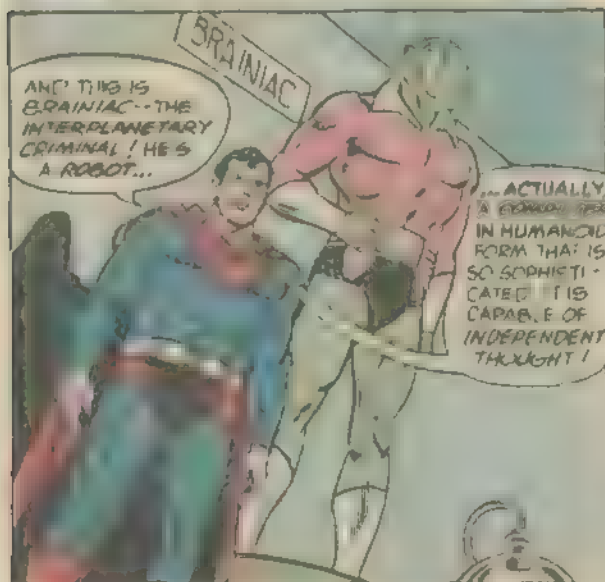


DR. HAZARD
JEFFERSON
"THE PARASITE"



--MAKING IT A MATCH FOR MINE DURING HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT!

LEX LUTHOR



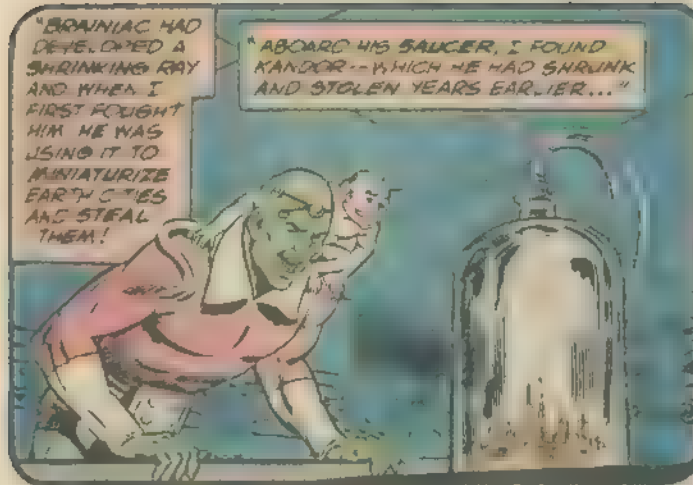
BRAINIAC

...ACTUALLY, A GORGEOUS FORM THAT IS SO SOPHISTICATED IT IS CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT!



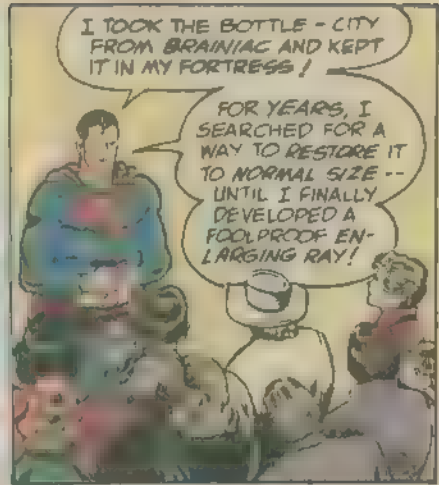
AND THIS IS A MODEL OF KANDOR-- KRYPTON'S FIRST CAPITAL--

--WHICH BECAUSE OF BRAINIAC, WAS A MINIATURE CITY HEATED IN A BOTTLE--UNTIL RECENTLY!



"BRAINIAC HAD DEVELOPED A SHRINKING RAY AND WHEN I FIRST FOUGHT HIM HE WAS USING IT TO MINIATURIZE EARTH CITIES AND STEAL THEM!"

"ABOARD HIS SAUCER, I FOUND KANDOR--WHICH HE HAD SHRUNK AND STOLEN YEARS EARLIER..."



I TOOK THE BOTTLE - CITY FROM BRAINIAC AND KEPT IT IN MY FORTRESS!

FOR YEARS, I SEARCHED FOR A WAY TO RESTORE IT TO NORMAL SIZE--UNTIL I FINALLY DEVELOPED A FOOLPROOF ENLARGING RAY!



"I HAD TESTED THE ENLARGING RAY--AND IT HAD WORKED PERFECTLY!"

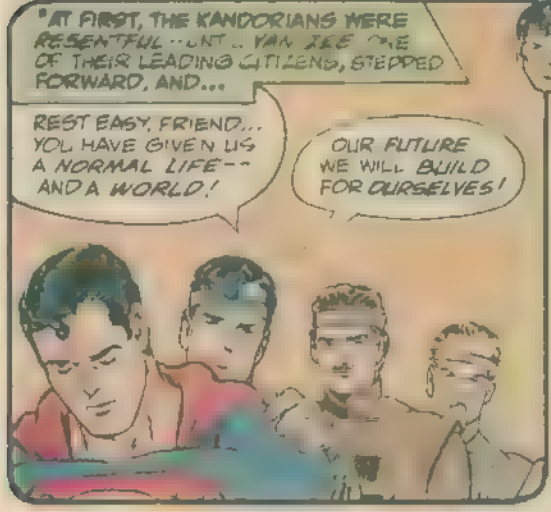
"BUT AFTER EXPOSING THE CITY TO THE RAY ON THE PLANET THE KANDORIANS HAD CHOSEN FOR THEIR NEW HOME..."



"I DISCOVERED THAT THE RAY WORKED ONLY ON ORGANIC MATTER--THAT IS, LIVING BEINGS..."

THE BUILDINGS--CRUMBLING INTO NOTHINGNESS!

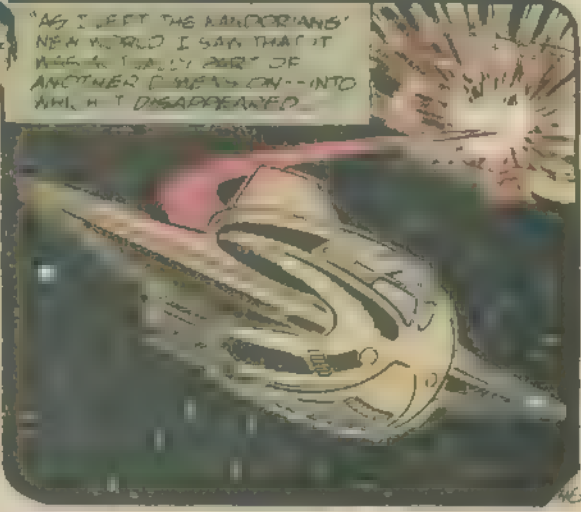
BUT INSANE MACHINERY, LIKE PLANTATION MACHINERY, WAS DESTROYED IN THE ENLARGING PROCESS!



"AT FIRST, THE KANDORIANS WERE RESENTFUL--UNTIL YAN ZEE ONE OF THEIR LEADING CITIZENS, STEPPED FORWARD, AND..."

REST EASY, FRIEND... YOU HAVE GIVEN US A NORMAL LIFE--AND A WORLD!

OUR FUTURE WE WILL BUILD FOR OURSELVES!



"AS I LEFT THE KANDORIANS' NEW WORLD I SAW THAT IT WAS A TRULY GREAT OF ANOTHER CIVILIZATION--INTO WHICH IT DISAPPEARED."

LIKE THE LEGENDARY TOWN OF BRIGADOON, THE PLANET RE-APPEARS IN THIS DIMENSION AT REGULAR INTERVALS...

BUT WHEN THAT PLANET WILL BE PART OF OUR UNIVERSE AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW.

SO MUCH FOR BRAINIAC!

THE SCHEMES OF THESE AND OTHER CRIMINALS FREQUENTLY INVOLVE KRYPTONITE!

YOU'VE SEEN SAMPLES OF THE BASIC FORM-- GREEN "K"...

BUT AS I GREW OLDER I ENCOUNTERED ISOTOPIES OF THE ORIGINAL ELEMENT...

...SUCH AS THESE GENUINE SAMPLES, DISPLAYED BEHIND LEADED GLASS AND A FOOLPROOF SECURITY SYSTEM!

THERE'S RED KRYPTONITE-- WHICH HAS UNPREDICTABLE MUTATING EFFECTS ON KRYPTONIANS...

... WHITE "K" ... WHICH CAN DESTROY ANY PLANT LIFE-- REGARDLESS OF ITS ORIGIN...

...AND THE DEADLIEST OF ALL--THE GOLD VARIETY-- WHICH CAN PERMANENTLY REMOVE A KRYPTONIAN'S SUPER-POWERS!

FOR A WHILE ALL KRYPTONITE ON EARTH WAS CHANGED TO HARMLESS IRON-- AS A CHAIN REACTION FROM A BREAK NUCLEAR EXPLOSION!

BUT IN RECENT MONTHS, MORE HAS FALLEN TO EARTH IN LARGE QUANTITIES...

...AND IT CONTINUES TO BE A CONSIDERABLE THREAT TO MY EXISTENCE!

THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER RECENT CHANGES, TOO!

FOR EXAMPLE, NOT LONG AGO, I DISCOVERED THAT INCREASED POLLUTION-LEVELS IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE MADE MY ~~ROBOTS~~ INOPERABLE!

I'VE RETIRED MY ROBOTS-- BUT, AS LONG AS THEY DON'T HAVE TO USE THEIR SUPER-POWERS, THEY'RE HARMLESS...

...AND THEY CAN OCCASIONALLY "SUB" FOR ME AS CLARK KENT--AS THAT ONE IS DOING NOW!

SEE HOW I TOLD YOU CLARK WOULD SHOW UP EVENTUALLY!

MY PRIVATE LIFE HAS BEEN BESET BY CHANGE IN RECENT YEARS TOO--

THANKS TO MORGAN EDGE, WHOSE GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS CONGLOMERATE ACQUIRED OWNERSHIP OF THE DAILY PLANET A WHILE BACK!

EDGE HAD SOME TALL ORDERS FOR PERSONNEL CHANGES WHEN HE TOOK CHARGE...

YOU WERE THE PLANET'S STAR REPORTER, KENT-- PAST TENSE!

AS OF TODAY, YOU'RE GOING OUT TO SNARE RATINGS-POINTS INSTEAD OF READERS--

IN THE NEWS DIVISION OF MY FLAGSHIP TV STATION-- WGBS!

"AND AFTER A BRIEF STAY AS A ROVING REPORTER, CLARK WAS PROMOTED TO ANCHOR MAN OF THE WGBS EVENING NEWS!"

"...AND A WHOLE NEW SET OF CO-WORKERS-- LIKE SPORTS ANCHOR STEVE LOMBARD... DIRECTOR JOSH COLE... AND CO-ANCHOR LANA LANG!"

BUT NO MATTER HOW YOUR LIFE HAS CHANGED, SUPERMAN...

...YOU'VE REMAINED THE SAME TRELENS CHAMPION OF LAW AND ORDER WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE!

MR. ARNGR M, YOU'RE VERY KIND!

NONSENSE! NOW THEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF YOU'LL JUST STEP OUT INTO THE EXIT VESTIBULE..

..SUPERMAN WILL MAKE SOME CLOSING REMARKS AND OUR TOUR WILL BE CONCLUDED!

BEFORE THE
SOUND CAN TRAVE
THE STEADY RHYTHM
OF HIS ANKLE ON
GROUND & BUTT ON
SEAT. AS A
WATCH ON
THE WALL...



GETTING IN MOTION A SERIES OF
ASTONISHING DEVELOPMENTS AROUND
THE CORNER - OUT OF THE CURTAINS
NIGHT...



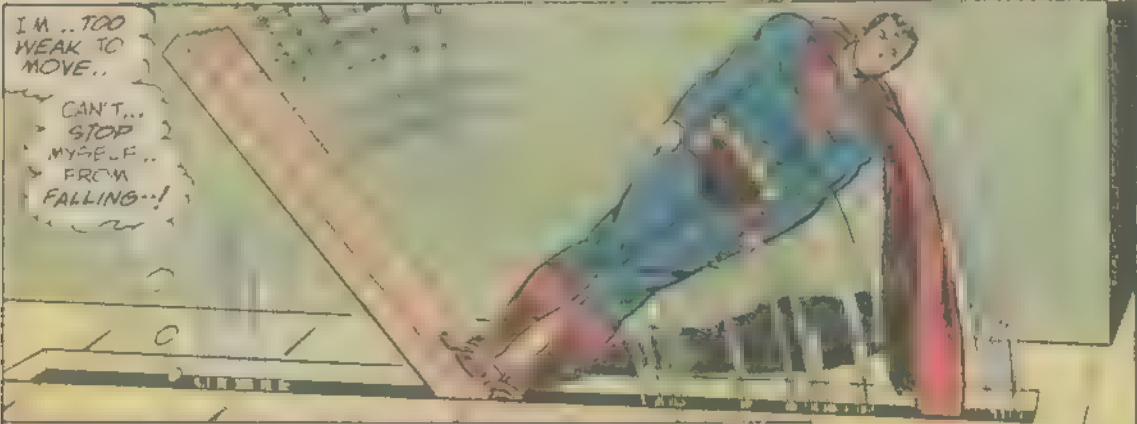
GREAT
KRYPTON!
THAT
OVERHEAD
"LAMP"...
IT'S
REALLY
SOME SORT
OF... KRYPTO-
NITE RAY--!

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, HE FEELS
HIMSELF BURST ON THE GREEN,
RADIATION PENETRATES IT AND
AS HIS LEGS BEGIN TO COLLAPSE
UNDER HIM...



DIDN'T NOTICE
IT BEFORE -
BUT I'M STAND-
ING OVER A
TRAP
DOOR..

OPENING
UP UNDER
ME --!



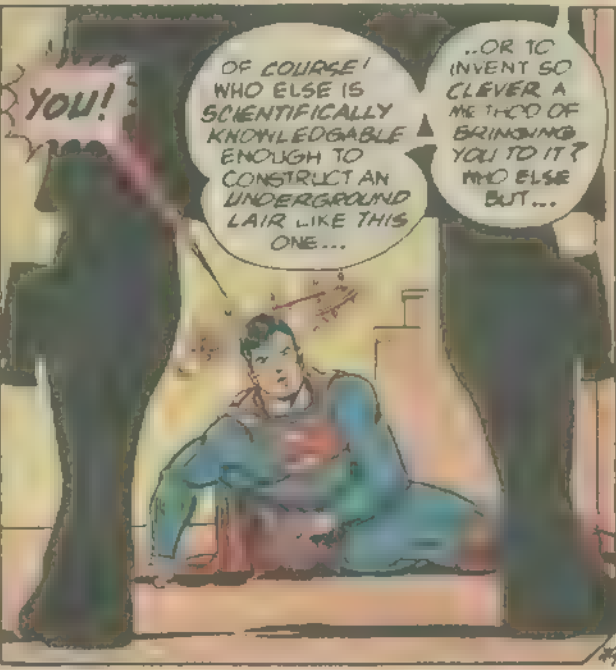
I'M... TOO
WEAK TO
MOVE..

CAN'T...
STOP
MYSELF...
FROM
FALLING--!

AND AS THE MAN OF STEEL FALLS THE TRAPDOOR FLIPS OVER--
AND AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF ~~THE TRAPDOOR~~ RISES IN HIS PLACE!

IT ALL HAPPENS SO FAST THAT THE
TOURISTS DO NOT SUSPECT IT! WHEN
THEY STEP AROUND THE CORNER, THEY
FIND THE VENTILATION DUCTS OF THE
S. M. PAVILION ARE AWAY TO THE V...

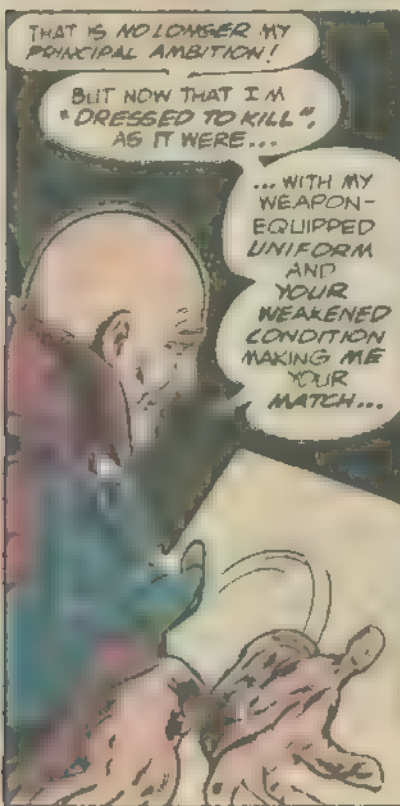
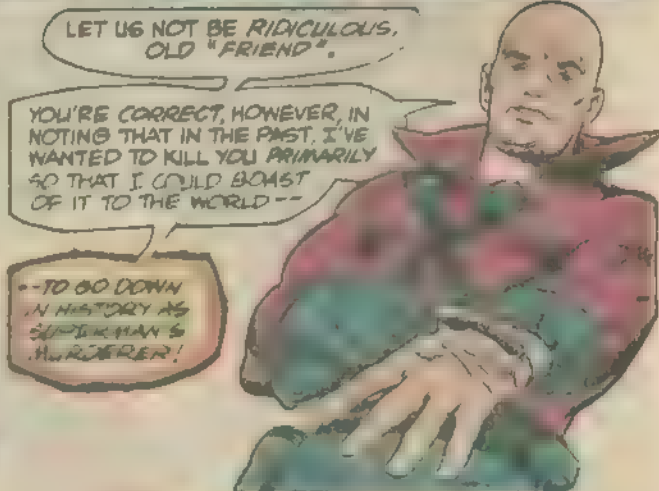
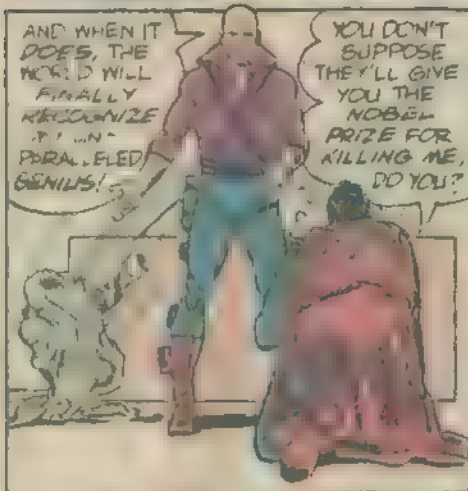
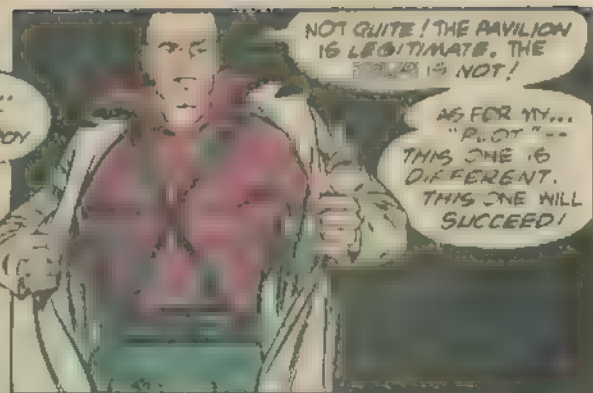
PERMAN PAVILION



YOU!

OF COURSE!
WHO ELSE IS
SCIENTIFICALLY
KNOWLEDGABLE
ENOUGH TO
CONSTRUCT AN
UNDERGROUND
LAIR LIKE THIS
ONE...

...OR TO
INVENT SO
CLEVER A
METHOD OF
BRINGING
YOU TO IT?
WHO ELSE
BUT...



OH, DON'T WORRY--
I WILL KILL YOU!
BUT YOUR DEATH
WILL REMAIN OUR
LITTLE SECRET...

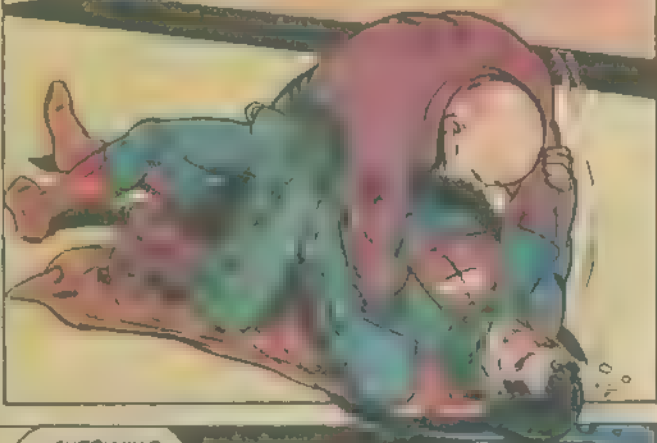
...JUST AMONG
THE THREE
OF US!

"THREE
OF US"?



YES--YOU, ME...
AND YOUR
REPLACEMENT!

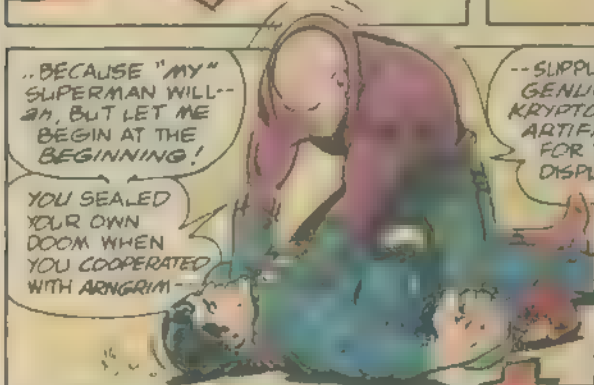
WITH YOU OUT OF THE WAY,
SUPERMAN, I WILL BE
FREE TO DO AS
I PLEASE...



..BECAUSE "MY"
SUPERMAN WILL--
AH, BUT LET ME
BEGIN AT THE
BEGINNING!

YOU SEALED
YOUR OWN
DOOM WHEN
YOU COOPERATED
WITH ARNGRIM--

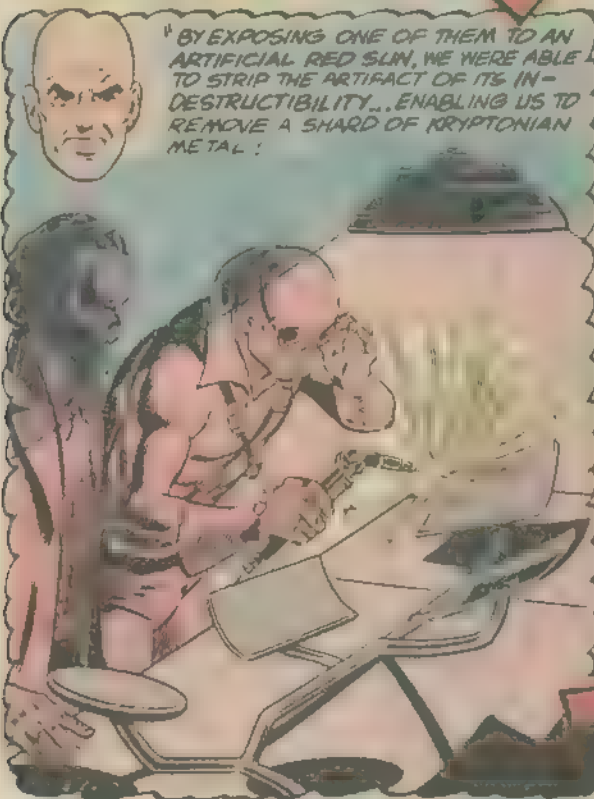
--SUPPLYING
GENUINE
KRYPTONIAN
ARTIFACTS
FOR THE
DISPLAYS!



BUT THAT SHARD BE-
CAME INDESTRUCTIBLE
AGAIN WHEN IT WAS RE-
MOVED FROM UNDER
THE RED SUN
LAND--



"BY EXPOSING ONE OF THEM TO AN
ARTIFICIAL RED SUN, WE WERE ABLE
TO STRIP THE ARTIFACT OF ITS IN-
DESTRUCTIBILITY... ENABLING US TO
REMOVE A SHARD OF KRYPTONIAN
METAL!



WHY WOULD YOU WANT
SUCH A THING,
LUTHOR?

"BECAUSE ONLY
A KRYPTONIAN
OBJECT WOULD
BE HARD
ENOUGH
TO PUNCTURE
HIS
NORMALLY
INVULNERABLE
SKIN!"

"REMEMBER WHEN YOU
SAID THAT YOU
WANTED TO
KNOW HOW
TO GET INTO
THE LAB?"

"WELL, CONCEALED
IN ARNGRIM'S
PALM WAS A
TINY SURGICAL
INSTRUMENT--
BUILT INTO A
SPLIT SEAM--
A... A... A...
A... JOY
BUTTER!"

"WHEN ARNGRIM SLIPPED AWAY BEFORE THE
TOUR BEGAN HE CAME--TO MY LAB-
ORATORY..."

HERE IT IS, LUTHER
THE SKIN TISSUE
SAMPLE YOU WANTED--

--SCRAPED FROM
THE PALM OF
SUPERMAN'S
HAND!

SUPERMAN WAS SO
DISTRACTED BY ALL
THE ATTENTION BEING
LAUGHED ON HIM, HE
NEVER NOTICED
WHAT WAS
GOING ON!

EVEN TO A NORMAL
PERSON, A
SKIN-SCRAPING
BARELY FEELS LIKE
A TICKLE!

BUT SUPERMAN--WITH HIS
INVULNERABILITY--IS SO
INSENSITIVE TO CERTAIN KINDS
OF TACTILE SENSATIONS...

...THAT HE
COULDN'T FEEL
WHAT YOU WERE
DOING AT ALL!

NOW I'M BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND YOUR PLAN!
OUT OF THE CELLS IN
THAT SKIN-SAMPLE...

...I BREED A
CLONE OF ME--
I DON'T KNOW

YES...

A CLONE--A LIVING HUMAN BEING
IDENTICAL TO YOU IN EVERY WAY--
BRED THROUGH ARTIFICIALLY-
INDUCED "CELL REPLICATION"...

SCIENTIFICALLY
SPEAKING THE
CLONE LOOKS
EXACTLY LIKE YOU
BECAUSE OF THE
GENETIC CODE
CONTAINED WITHIN
THE CELL-SAMPLE!

BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH--
IT HAD TO THINK LIKE YOU...ACT
LIKE YOU...IN
EFFECT BE
YOU!

TO DO THAT, I GAVE THE CLONE
YOUR MEMORIES, YOUR PERSONALITY--

USING MY SUPER-ELECTRO-
ENCEPHALOGRAM TO RECORD
YOUR MEMORY-ENGRAMS AND
IMPRINT THEM ON THE CLONE'S
BRAIN!

IF ALL THIS IS TOO
COMPLEX FOR YOU,
SUPERMAN--

...YOU WERE IN
EACH INSTANCE
IN CONTACT WITH
ONE OF MY MIND-
PROBING DEVICES--
UTILIZING RADIATION
IMAGES...
YES, YES!

THE RAYS SCANNED
YOUR BRAIN, "RE-
CORDED" YOUR
PERSONALITY...

...NOT
DUPLICATED
THEM IN
THE BRAIN
OF THE
SUPERMAN-
CLONE!

I'VE ALSO PERFECTED A
HYPER-ACCELERATED
GROWTH PROCESS
FOR MY CLONE!

IT TOOK A MERE
HANDFUL OF
MINUTES FOR
THE CLONE TO
MATURE ONE
YEAR...

...SO THAT IN
THE SINGLE
HOUR THE
TOUR
LASTED...

OOOF!

...MY CLONE GREW TO ADULTHOOD--
AND YOUR EXACT AGE NOW!

LUTHOR: UNHH!--
ARNGRIM WAS...
STRICTLY STRAIGHT
ARROW...UNTIL NOW!
HOW'D YOU... MAKE HIM...
AN ACCOMPLICE?

I
DIDN'T..!

KCHOK

THE MAN
YOU MET
ISN'T
ARNGRIM!
HE'S A
CLONE OF
THE REAL
ARNGRIM--
WHO'S MY
PRISONER!

I HAD TO
STAY HERE--
SUPERVISING
THE CLONE'S
INDOCTRINATION
WHILE THE TOUR
WAS CONDUCTED--

BUT I NEEDED
AN "AGENT"
ABOVE-GROUND!

SO I USED A
CLONE OF ARNGRIM--
"TRAINED" TO DO
MY BIDDING--

SINCE WITH YOUR
SUPER-POWERS,
YOU WOULD'VE
EASILY DETECTED
A ROBOT...

...OR SEEN
THROUGH A
DISGUISE WORN
BY AN ORDINARY
HENCHMAN!

DON'T...
UNDERSTAND...
THIS...

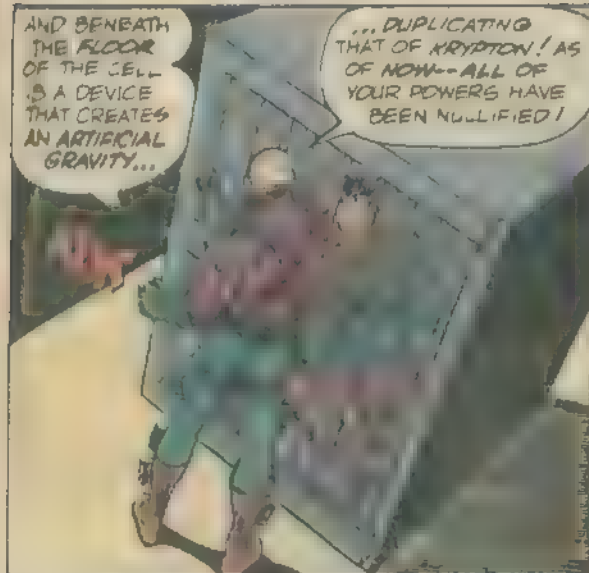
SO MEAK--! NOT EVEN
YOUR POWER GLOVES
SHOULD MAKE YOU
STRONGER THAN ME--

UNHH

TRUE--BUT YOU'RE
NOT YOUR USUAL
SUPER SELF--!

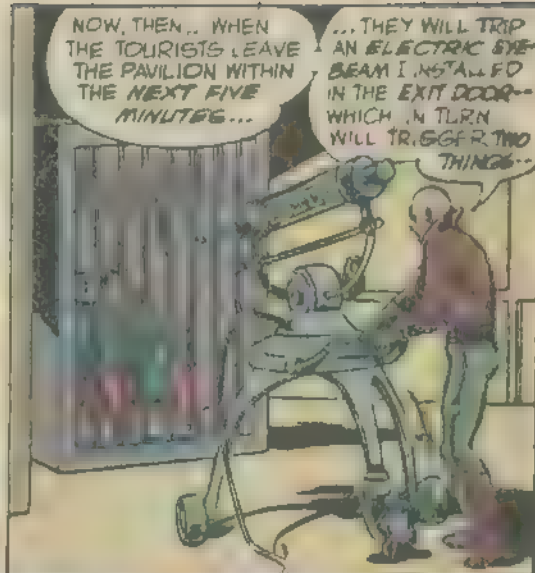
SINCE YOU CAME DOWN
HERE, YOU'VE BEEN
FEELING THE EFFECTS
OF SOMETHING IN
THAT PRISON CELL--

--THAT ARTIFICIAL
RED SUN I MENTIONED--
DESIGNED TO DRAIN
YOUR SUPER-POWERS!



AND BENEATH
THE FLOOR
OF THE CELL
IS A DEVICE
THAT CREATES
AN ARTIFICIAL
GRAVITY...

...DUPLICATING
THAT OF KRYPTON! AS
OF NOW--ALL OF
YOUR POWERS HAVE
BEEN NULLIFIED!



NOW, THEN.. WHEN
THE TOURISTS LEAVE
THE PAVILION WITHIN
THE NEXT FIVE
MINUTES...

...THEY WILL TRIP
AN ELECTRIC EYE
BEAM I INSTALLED
IN THE EXIT DOOR--
WHICH IN TURN
WILL TRIGGER TWO
THINGS...



FIRST, THIS HIGH INTENSITY
LASER WILL STAB INTO YOUR
CELL...

...AND--SINCE
YOU'VE BEEN
ROBBED OF
YOUR POWERS,
IT WILL KILL
YOU INSTANTLY!



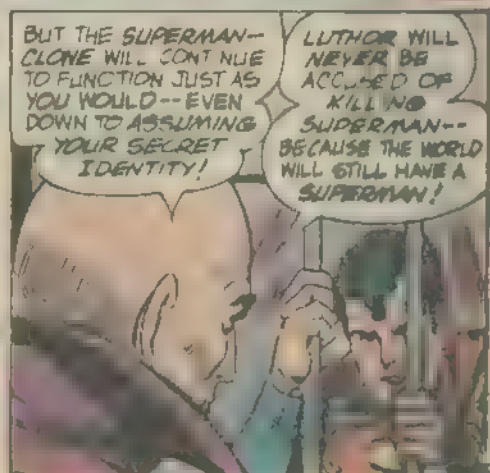
"A MULTANEY.S.Y. A TON OF PLASTIQUE EXPLOSIVE
PLANTED AROUND THE FOUNDATION OF THE PAVILION
WILL BE IGNITED..."

"...KILLING EVERYONE IN IT--
INCLUDING YOUR CLOSEST
FRIENDS!"



BY THEN, I AND MY
SUPERMAN-CLONE--
WHO IS "PRO-
GRAMMED" TO
SERVE ME--
WILL BE LONG
GONE--

AND THE REAL
ARNGRIM WILL
BE LEFT TO
TAKE THE BLAME
FOR THE
DISASTER!



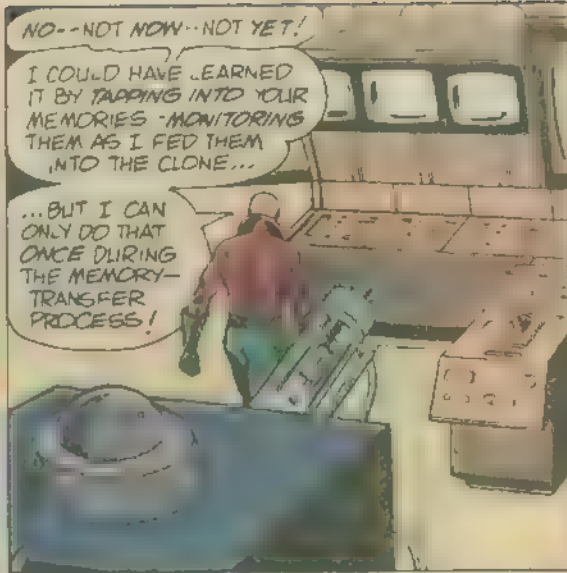
BUT THE SUPERMAN-
CLONE WILL CONTINUE
TO FUNCTION JUST AS
YOU WOULD--EVEN
DOWN TO ASSUMING
YOUR SECRET
IDENTITY!

LUTHOR WILL
NEVER BE
ACCUSED OF
KILLING
SUPERMAN--
BECAUSE THE WORLD
WILL STILL HAVE A
SUPERMAN!



EVEN IF SOMEONE SUSPECTS MY SCHEME--NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT "MY" SUPERMAN ISN'T YOU!

"THEN YOU KNOW MY SECRET IDENTITY?"



NO--NOT NOW--NOT YET!

I COULD HAVE LEARNED IT BY TAPPING INTO YOUR MEMORIES--MONITORING THEM AS I FED THEM INTO THE CLONE...

...BUT I CAN ONLY DO THAT ONCE DURING THE MEMORY-TRANSFER PROCESS!



OTHERWISE, I MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY UPSET THE ACCURACY OF THE MEMORY-DUPLICATION!

SO I HAD TO SAVE THE ONE TIME I COULD ALLOW MYSELF TO TAMPER WITH THE PROCESS.



...FOR THE MOMENT WHEN I HAD TO ALTER YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD ME AS THEY WERE IM-PRINTED ON THE CLONE!

I COULDN'T LET THE CLONE FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME AS YOU DO, BECAUSE IF I DID...



"... HE WOULDN'T OBEY ME-- WOULD HE ? "

ONE MORE WORD ABOUT LEX LUTHOR.. HE'S DIFFERENT FROM MY OTHER ENEMIES!

HE'S NOT REALLY EVIL--JUST.. MISUNDER- STOOD!



HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST SCIENTIST THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN-- A GREAT HUMANITARIAN...

...IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR WHAT I DID TO HIM WHEN WE WERE BOYS!

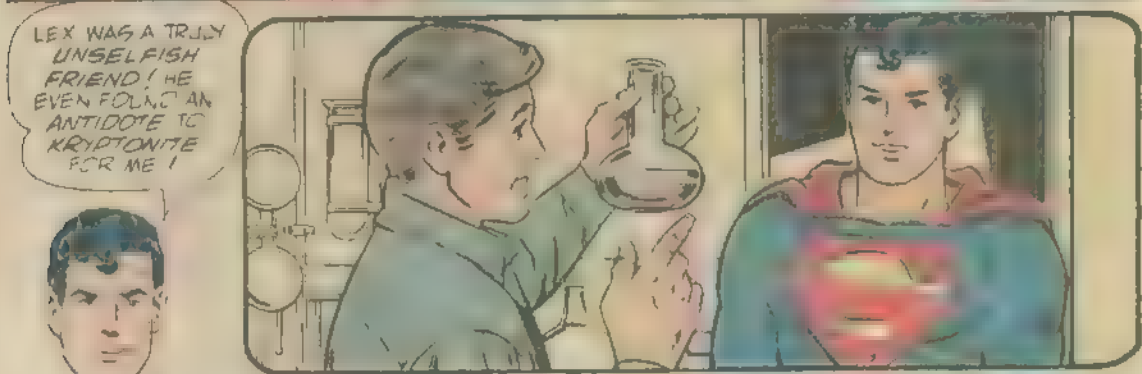
?! LOIS WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH SUPERMAN ?!



THAT DIDN'T
SOUND AT ALL
LIKE SOMETHING
HE WOULD
SAY!

I KNOW, LANA-- BUT MAYBE
WE SHOULD HEAR HIM OUT.

YOU SEE
I RUINED
LUTHOR
OUT OF
PETTY
JEALOUSY!



LEX WAS A TRULY
UNSELFISH
FRIEND! HE
EVEN FOUND AN
ANTIDOTE TO
KRYPTONITE
FOR ME!

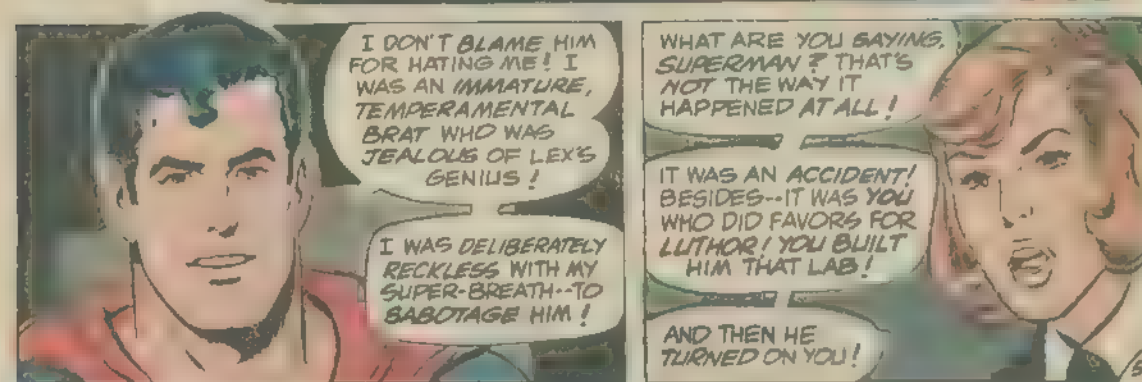


ONE DAY
DURING AN
EXPERIMENT,
HIS LAB CAUGHT
FIRE! I BLEW
OUT THE BLAZE...

...BUT MY
SUPER-BREATH
KNOCKED OVER
THE FLASK
CONTAINING THE
ANTIDOTE...



AND THE
FORMULA WAS
LOST WHEN IT
MIXED WITH
OTHER CHEMICALS--
AND THE RESULTING
FUMES CAUSED
LUTHOR'S HAIR
TO FALL OUT!



I DON'T BLAME HIM
FOR HATING ME! I
WAS AN IMMATURE,
TEMPERAMENTAL
BRAT WHO WAS
JEALOUS OF LEX'S
GENIUS!

I WAS DELIBERATELY
RECKLESS WITH MY
SUPER-BREATH--TO
SABOTAGE HIM!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING,
SUPERMAN? THAT'S
NOT THE WAY IT
HAPPENED AT ALL!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
BESIDES--IT WAS YOU
WHO DID FAVORS FOR
LUTHOR! YOU BUILT
HIM THAT LAB!

AND THEN HE
TURNED ON YOU!

MEANWHILE - BELOW...

LUTHOR'S RIGHT... I AM POWERLESS! CAN'T... SUPRE... THESE CELL BARS...

BUT I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE TOURISTS LEAVE THE PAVILION...

...OR THEY... AND I - ARE DOOMED!

WAIT--MAYBE THERE IS A WAY!

IF LUTHOR DOESN'T KNOW I'M CLARK KENT THEN HE DOESN'T KNOW I...ARK'S SECRETS...

...LIKE THE FACT THAT THERE'S A HIDDEN POUCH IN MY CAPE...

IN WHICH I STORE CLARK KENT'S CLOTHES!

WHILE LUTHOR'S BACK IS TURNED, I'LL REMOVE CLARK'S TIE...

...AND-- ONCE I REMOVE MY BELT...

...TIE THE NECKTIE TO ONE END OF THE BELT!

LUTHOR IS SO USED TO THINKING IN SUPER-SCIENTIFIC TERMS THAT HE'S OVERLOOKED THE MOST OBVIOUS WAY I CAN GET OUT OF HERE!

WHAT MIGHT THAT BE? WE'LL KNOW MOMENTARILY...

...BUT RIGHT NOW--THERE IS TROUBLE BREWING SEVERAL FEET OVERHEAD...

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, SUPERMAN! HOW CAN YOU MAKE YOURSELF OUT TO BE A VILLAIN WHILE MAKING A HERO OUT OF A RAT LIKE LUTHOR?

WELL, I... I...

THINK, YOU IDIOT--THINK! MAKE UP AN EXPLANATION! TELL THEM ANYTHING--EVEN DOUBLE-TALK...
...JUST GET THEM MOVING TOWARD THE EXIT DOOR!

Hmm...

LUTHOR'S JUST REALIZED HIS CRITICAL MISTAKE--AND WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED...

...I CAN TRY TO SNAG THAT KEY-RING WITH THE KEY TO THIS CELL ON IT...

...USING THE BUCKLE OF MY BELT!!

PRESENTLY...

POWER-DRAINING PRISON

OFF
ON

LUTHOR'S TOO BUST "COACHING" THE SUPERMAN-CLONE VIA THAT "TELEPATHIC INTERCOM" TO NOTICE I'VE ESCAPED!

HURRY UP, YOU SUPER-BUFFOON!

YOU'VE GOT TO--

EXCUSE ME, LEX...

--oh?

...YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'RE
OVERDUE
FOR A NAP!

PLEASANT
DREAMS!

FLUNK

AND THE
SLIGHTEST
TAP --
ENOUGH TO
KNOCK
LUTHER UN-
CONSCIOUS!

THE POOR FOOL--!
IF HE WASN'T SO
DANGEROUS,
I'D ALMOST
FEEL SORRY
FOR HIM!

ONCE
AGAIN,
HIS
HATRED
FOR ME
CLOUDS
HIS
JUDGMENT!

HAVING
SHOT OFF
"IF POWER-
DRIVING
BELIEFS
OF THE
FRENCH
SEEM
TO BE
A LITTLE
OUT OF
HIS RANGE,

OVERLOOKS
THE FACT THAT IN
ALL OF MY
RECOLLECTION
OF THE INCIDENT
THAT STARTED
OUR FEUD...

...HE IMPRINTED
HIS OWN
ATTITUDES ON
THE CLONE'S
MIND--COMPLETE
WITH HIS OWN
BIASES, PREJUDICES
AND PARANOIA!

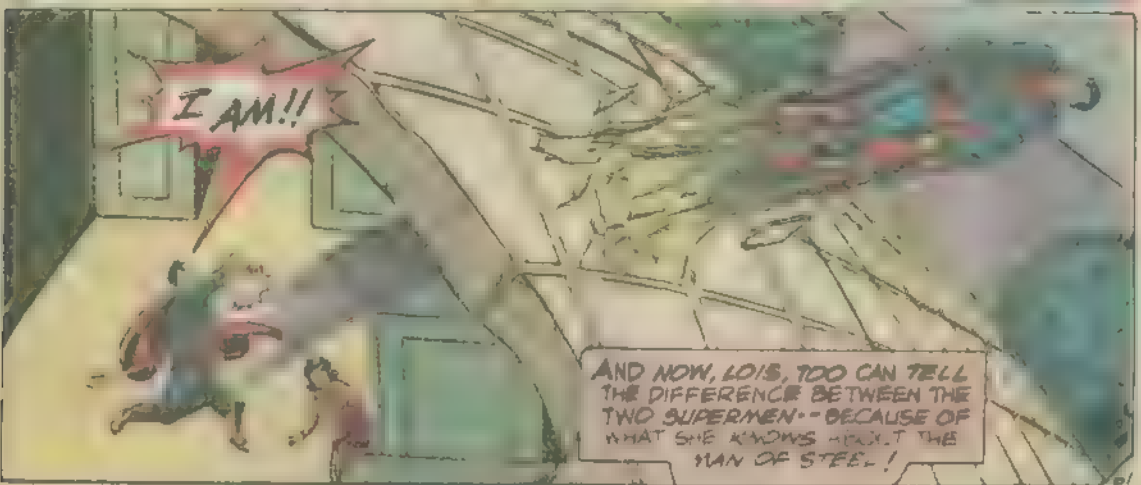
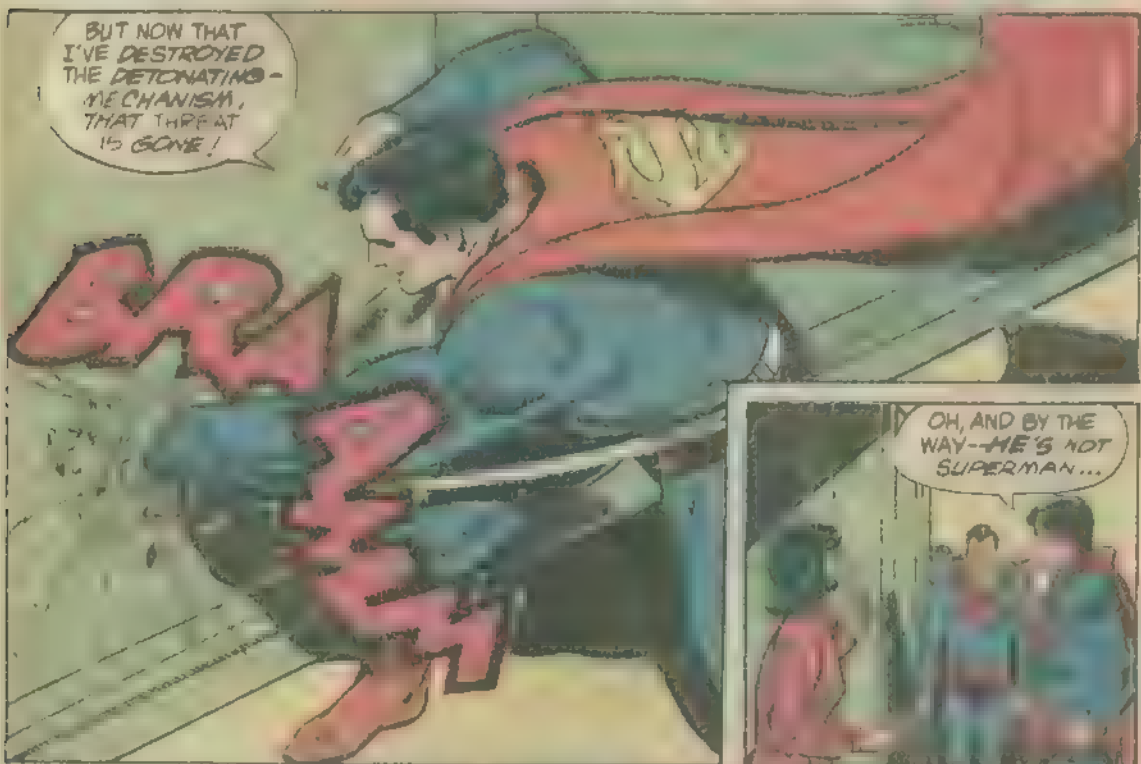
"AND THE
BETRAYAL
OF THE
ATTITUDES
HAS CAUSED
A COMOTION
THAT HAS
DELAYED
THE END
OF THE TOUR."

YOU MAY HAVE
THE RIGHT TO
DELUDE YOUR-
SELF ABOUT
YOUR LIFE,
SUPERMAN..

BUT I
DON'T HAVE
TO LISTEN
TO IT--

HUN?

TAKE ONE
MORE STEP
LO'S--
AND YOU WON'T
DO ANYTHING!



SHE KNOWS IT'S NOT HIS POWER
THAT MAKES HIM SUPERMAN!

ANY MAN OF A DOZEN...
A HUNDRED... A MILLION...
BUT FOR A TRICK OF
FATE--COULD HAVE
BEEN PLACED IN A
ROCK--BEHIND FOR
EARTH...

ANY MAN OF KRYPTON BORN CAN GAIN THAT
POWER BENEATH THE YELLOW SUN...

NOR IS IT
WISDOM
THAT
MAKE HIM
SUPERMAN
ANY MAN
CAN BE
WISE IF HE
LIVES LONG
ENOUGH--
AND KEEPS
HIS EYES
AND EARS
OPEN WHILE
HE LIVES.

NO... IT'S SOMETHING ELSE...
THAT SPECIAL VIRTUE THAT
IS HIS AND HIS ALONE:

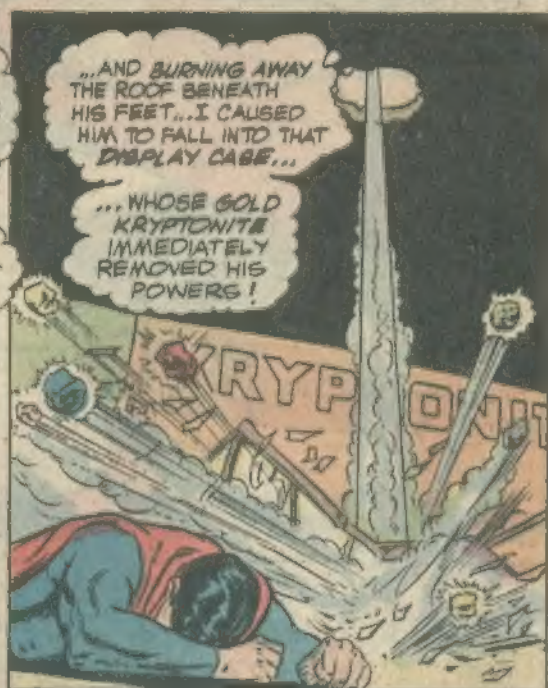
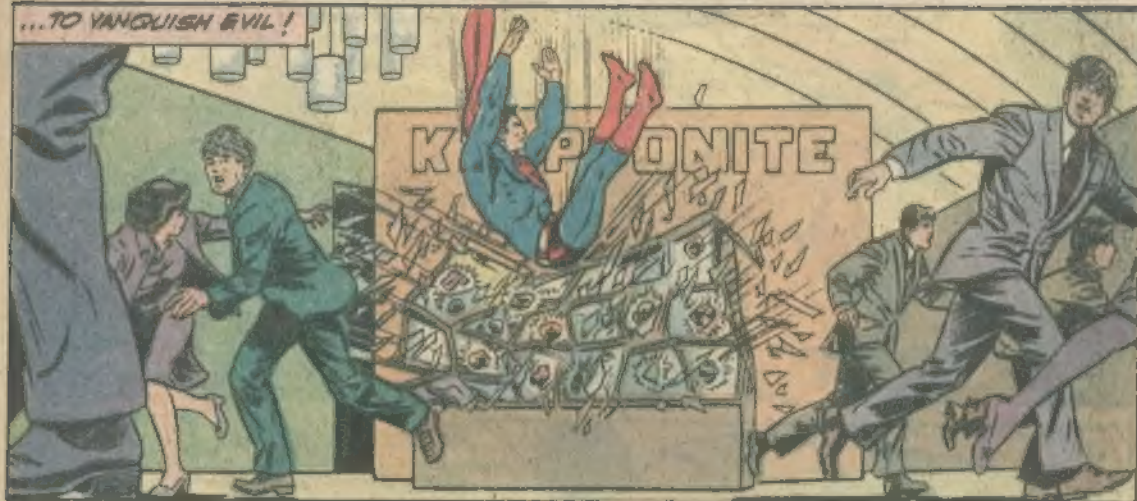
THE ABILITY TO
USE ALL THAT
GOD-GIVEN
POWER AND THAT
LONG-NURTURED
WISDOM...

...IN THE NAME OF KINDNESS...
ETHICS... MORALITY--THE THING
MEN CALL 'GOOD'...

...TO WIELD THAT POWER IN THE
PURSUIT OF JUSTICE...

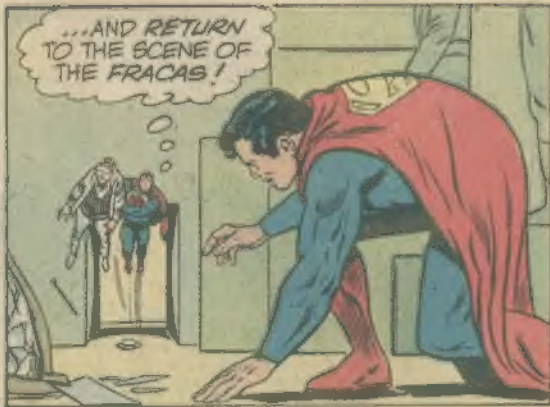
...AND, IN THAT
PURSUIT...

...TO VANQUISH EVIL!





...I CAN
PICK UP THE
ARNGRIM
CLONE...

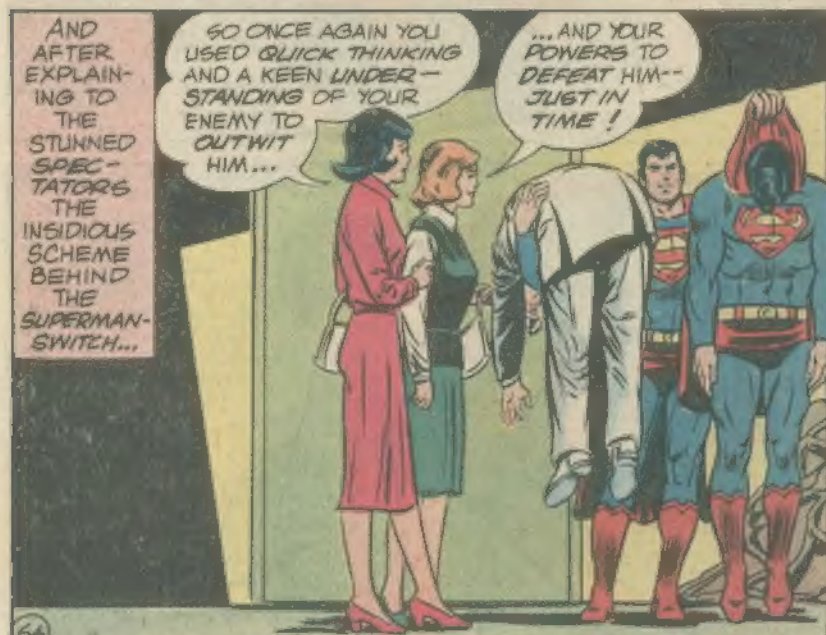


...AND RETURN
TO THE SCENE OF
THE FRACAS!



AND SINCE MY DOUBLE
IS NO LONGER
SUPER-POWERED,
I CAN TAKE OUT BOTH
HIM AND "ARNGRIM"...

...IN THE
PROVERBIAL
ONE FELL
SWOOP!



AND
AFTER
EXPLAIN-
ING TO
THE
STUNNED
SPEC-
TATORS
THE
INSIDIOUS
SCHEME
BEHIND
THE
SUPERMAN-
SWITCH...

SO ONCE AGAIN YOU
USED QUICK THINKING
AND A KEEN UNDER-
STANDING OF YOUR
ENEMY TO
OUTWIT
HIM...

...AND YOUR
POWERS TO
DEFEAT HIM--
JUST IN
TIME!

I GUESS YOU COULD
SAY THAT, LADIES. IN
FACT, IT'S HAPPENED
SO MANY TIMES, YOU
MIGHT SAY...

...IT'S THE **STORY**
OF MY LIFE!



The End

THE ACTION COMICS STORY (CONT'D)

Then came *The Black Pirate*, by Sheldon Moldoff. Initially drawn like Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., in his silent movie of that title, this character evolved into a costumed hero of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, complete with secret identity. He later appeared in other titles, notably a long run in *SENSATION COMICS*, though he made his bow in *ACTION* #23, exiting after #42 (and having missed only #37).

But only *Superman* himself can boast a longer *ACTION* run than the next here—*Congo Bill*! Looking remarkably like Frank Buck, the famed Bring-'Em-Back-Alive hunter, Bill was involved in all sorts of African adventures over the years. In #191, a new character was introduced in the strip: Janu the Jungle Boy. Finally, in #248, Bill was given a magic ring by a witch doctor. A duplicate of the ring was worn by a huge golden gorilla, and when Bill rubbed his ring, he and the gorilla would change bodies until he rubbed the gorilla's ring. So from then on, the title became *Congorilla*. He ran through #261, then moved over for a while to *ADVENTURE COMICS*.

The Vigilante debuted in #42 and ran through #198. He was Greg Sanders, Western singer, known as the Prairie Troubadour. But in his other identity, his face covered by a bandana, he rode his motorcycle as a modern Western hero, *The Vigilante*. The first version of his origin stated that his father was a lawman killed by stagecoach robbers. Later, the writer thought better of it and explained that the stage was bringing gold from a mine and the thieves had been modern crooks using automatic pistols. However, for a time in the '50's, when Western comics were big, Vig replaced his cycle with a horse and had adventures in a West that was long gone before anyone his age could have known it.

Tommy Tomorrow actually started in a series of four stories in *REAL FACT COMICS*. Though they supposedly showed what the future space age would be like, they made some incredible errors—like having an atmosphere on the Moon! But when he began his own feature, he became *Col. Tommy Tomorrow* of The Planeteers. With artists such as Curt Swan and Jim Mooney, he starred in a fine series of space adventures beginning in *ACTION* #127, and running until his place was taken by *Supergirl*.

Before going on to the Girl of Steel, I must mention the one humor strip that ran for any length of time in *ACTION*. This was *Hayfoot Henry*, who began in #78, appeared through #118, and made one last bow in #123. The entire strip was written in rhyme. Henry was a cop who was writing a rhyming dictionary; in each story he had to solve both a crime and a rhyme. He always had a word he was trying to rhyme, and on the last page, someone would invariably say something that provided the answer. Sometimes the rhymes were perfect (hirsute and pursuit), sometimes they were close (brie cheese and species), sometimes they were not too good (hear a bid and pyramid). Henry probably hit his low mark by accepting "sore bings" as a rhyme for "orange."

You may note that the number of features had been decreasing. *ACTION* began as a 64-page magazine selling for 10¢ (at a time when few magazines cost more—even *LIFE* and *THE SATURDAY EVENING POST* cost a dime in those days). By the late '50's, the mag had shrunk to 32 pages, with only three features: *Superman*, *Congorilla*, and *Tommy Tomorrow*. It was about that time that the letter pages were introduced here at DC (the only previous one we had having been in *REAL FACT* in the '40's).

Then, in #252, a new part of the *Superman* legend came on the scene—*Supergirl*! For a while, she was one of two back features; then, in #262, she pushed *Congorilla* out and took over half the magazine herself. It was in her first long story that one new concept came along concerning the powers of the Kryptonian cousins. Hitherto, their powers were attributed solely to Earth's lighter gravity. But since

Supergirl was born on a tiny fragment of Krypton, an explanation of why she had no powers there was needed. So *Superman* explained that the rays of Earth's yellow sun were also required.

After a period at Midvale Orphanage as Linda Lee, acting as *Superman*'s secret weapon and learning the ropes, *Supergirl* was told, in #278, that it was time to reveal her existence to the world. However, her powers mysteriously vanished—and so began a long serial which had a secret enemy working against her from Kandor. She was adopted by Fred and Edna Danvers. And finally, in #285, *Supergirl* was revealed to the world in the first book-length novel ever published in *ACTION*. Though it was called a *Superman-Supergirl* story, she was, in fact, the star.

In 1964, Linda went to college. And with #377, she moved over to star in *ADVENTURE*, while the *Legion of Super-Heroes* took her place in *ACTION*.

With #393, Murray Boltinoff took over the editorial reins of *ACTION* upon the retirement of long-time editor Mort Weisinger. The second story then became a *Superman* tale; in effect, *ACTION* became a second *Superman* magazine.

Then, for a while beginning with #403, the DC line became 48-page magazines, the extra pages being taken up by reprints. Since none of these were regulars, we won't take the time to recount just what they were.

With #413, the second *Superman* story was replaced by *Metamorpho*, the *Element Man*. This strange being, transformed by an accident into a freak who could change his body into any element, had had his own magazine in the '60's.

Julie Schwartz became editor with #419, and a new second feature was introduced—*The Human Target*. Based on a concept once used in *Batman*, it concerned a man who made his living impersonating people whose lives were in danger. For some time it alternated with two old standbys, *The Atom* and *Green Arrow*.

The Human Target made his last *ACTION* appearance in #432—the cover of which, coincidentally, featured a *Superman* story titled "Target of the Toyman!"

Three *ACTION* issues (437, 443, and 449) were giants with new *Superman* stories and reprints of other action tales. They were not the first giant *ACTION* issues, for *Supergirl* had previously starred in four all-reprint giants. These were numbered as issues of *ACTION*, though they came out in the same months as regular *ACTIONS*. Because of this, #500 came along four months sooner than it would have if it had been on a strictly monthly schedule throughout its lifetime.

Issue 455 brought in both second bananas—*Green Arrow* and *The Atom*—to co-star with *Superman* in a full-length story. But these heroes were soon out, replaced by stories of *Clark Kent* and his friends and foes. After a while, full-lengthers took over the mag most of the time, though there was a brief period (three issues) when the mag sold for 50¢ and put *The Atom* and the new *Air Wave* in the second spot.

And all through these 500 issues, one figure has stood supreme—*Superman*. His costume has been modified slightly through the years, but remains basically the same one Joe Shuster designed at Jerry Siegel's suggestion, way back in 1934. The first story of the Man of Steel had him leaping a quarter of a mile, outrunning a train, etc. But he soon proved stronger than anyone at first supposed. By *ACTION* #13, he could turn in mid-leap; soon he was flying. His X-Ray vision and super-hearing developed. It was in the pages of *ACTION* that he first met Lois Lane, as well as such villains as Luthor, The Prankster, The Toyman, and Brainiac.

And it was in *ACTION* #484 that we showed the Golden Age *Superman* actually marrying his Lois. This began the *Mr. and Mrs. Superman* series now running in *SUPERMAN FAMILY*. Perhaps that 40th Anniversary issue was the greatest of them all—until this one!

What's coming up for *ACTION COMICS*? Will we one day celebrate our 1,000th issue? If we do (and right now, we don't see why not), one thing is certain—it will still be starring *Superman*!

—E. Nelson Bridwell

THE ROCKET THAT CARRIED THE FUTURE SUPERMAN FROM KRYPTON BURSTS THROUGH THE COVERS OF OUR PREVIOUS ANNIVERSARY ISSUES!

